9
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics

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Suzuka 9

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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A Note from the Author

I BOUGHT A BASIL PLANT. IT'S DOING SO WELL, NO ONE WOULD EVER GUESS THAT IT COST ME ONLY 98 YEN. SOON I'LL HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF BASIL, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A PIZZA PARTY!! I JUST HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THAT LITTLE FELLA WHO KEEPS PECKING AT IT...

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

SUZUKA

9

Kouji Seo

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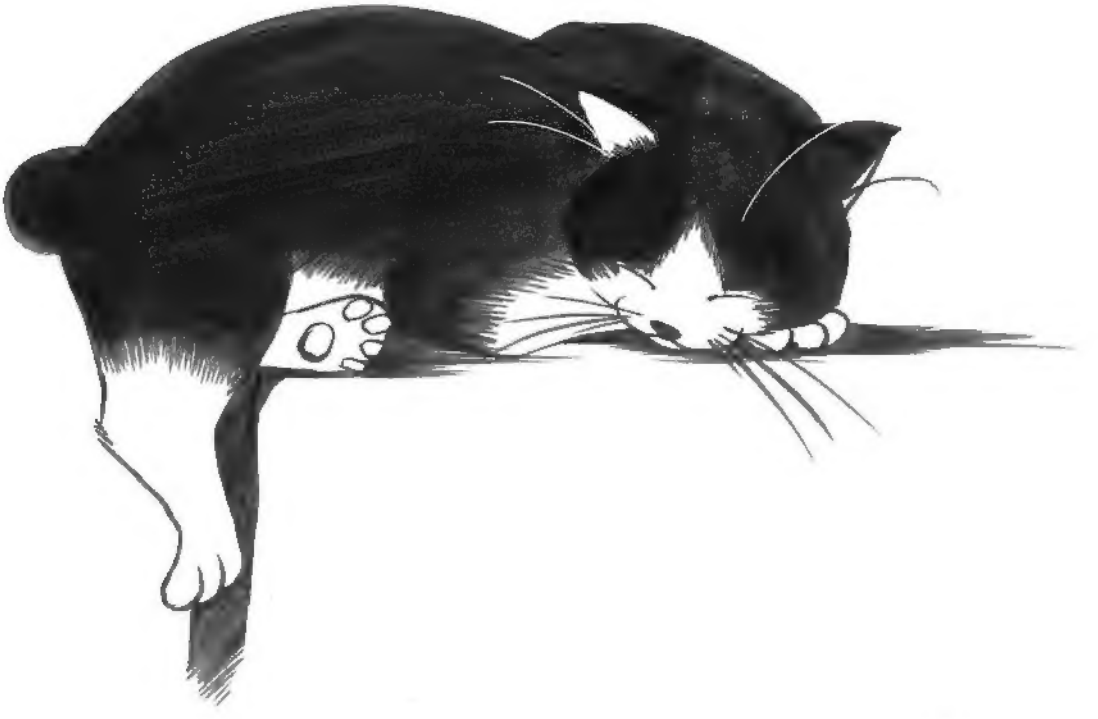


YAMATO...
...KUN

SUZUKA

#70 Reciprocal Feelings

DON'T FOLLOW ME!!
WHAT!?
WHAT? WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING!!?
WHY DO YOU CARE?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU OUT HERE!!
HANG ON A MINUTE!!
...AH.

THUD
ズザ"
H-HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU SHOULDN'T RUN IN THOSE SHOES...
YOU OKAY? CAN YOU STAND UP?
HEY...
ASAHINA, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME...?
GOD..
.....

HUH...
WHAT DO YOU–

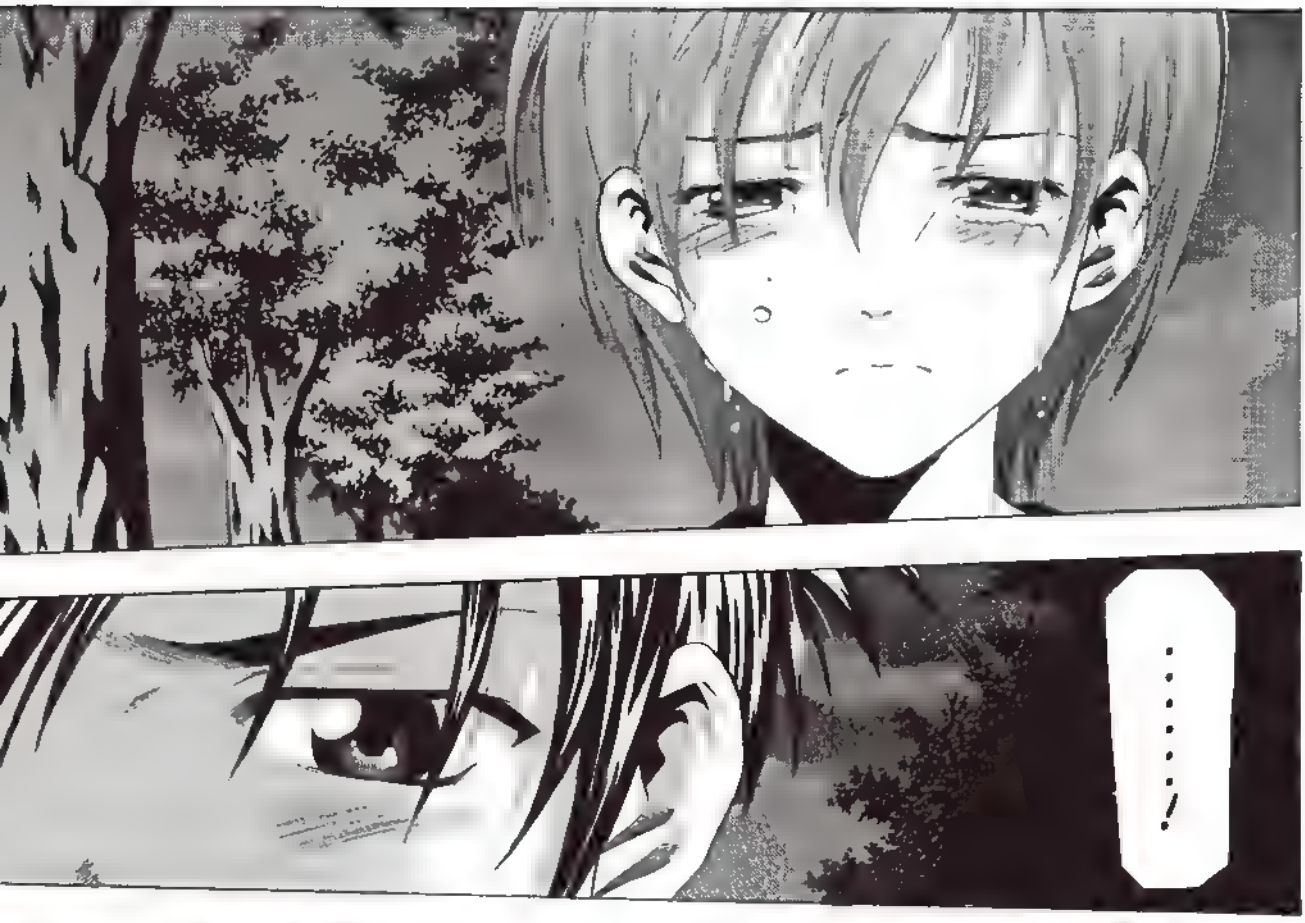
WHAT DO YOU CARE WHERE I GO AND WHAT I DO?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!

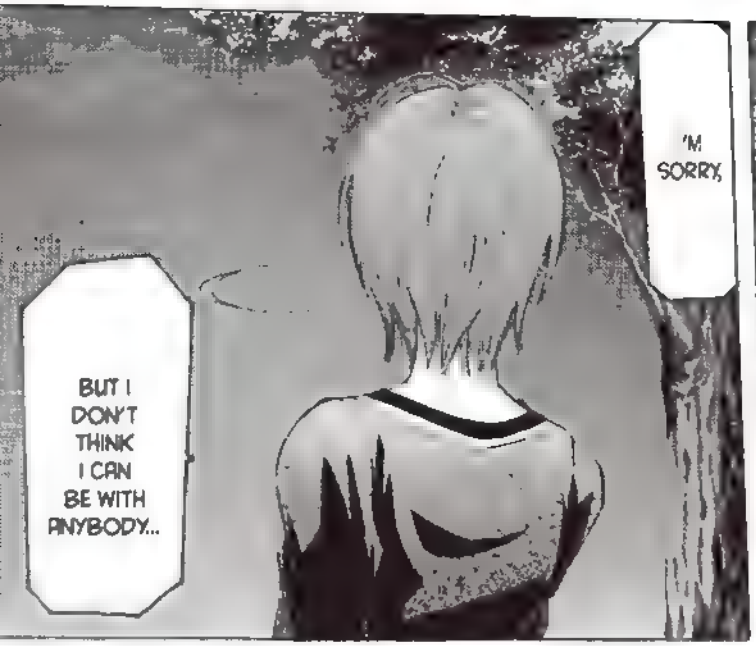
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT...
QUIT FOLLOWING ME EVERY-WHERE!!
I HATE YOU!! JUST STOP!!
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO LOOK FOR ME!!
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!!
.....!
SHOCK
.....
STOP IT!
I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
...SORRY...

IF YOU KEEP BEING SWEET LIKE THAT...
...I'M GOING TO FALL IN...

WHO


.....!


I'M SORRY,
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN BE WITH ANYBODY...

KAZUKI TSUDA
1

FWUP

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL!!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

WE WON'T KNOW IF IT WORKS UNTIL WE GIVE IT A TRY!!
HOW CAN YOU GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT ALL THAT CRAP BEFORE WE EVEN DO ANYTHING?
!!
.....!!
I JUST...
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WENT THROUGH.
LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU JERK!!
LET GO OF ME!!
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND ME, SO JUST SHUT UP!!
!?
YANK
ｸﾞｲｯ

FWUP
.....!!
I...
.....

I THINK I DO UNDERSTAND...
.....!!
SLAP
AHH!
...WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH...
AH...
WAIT...
I HATE YOU!

A-ASAHINA!!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW.
THAT'S IT...

302
SUZUKA ASAHINA

SUZUKA
#71 A Graveyard Visit

SQUEAK
CLICK
GOD!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT! WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

カアアッ
BLUSH
……

1

SENPAI...
BUT...
WHY DO I FEEL...
...THIS WAY...

WHAT?
YOU FOUND HER, BUT SHE GOT MAD AND RAN OFF AGAIN!?

WELL, I'M SURE AS HELL NOT OKAY!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY HOURS I'VE SPENT WANDERING AROUND LOOKING FOR HER!?
SORRY.

Y-YEAH.
BUT IT'S OKAY.
I THINK SHE WENT BACK HOME. HER LIGHTS ARE ON.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU FOUND HER.
I'M GONNA HEAD HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP!
BYE!!

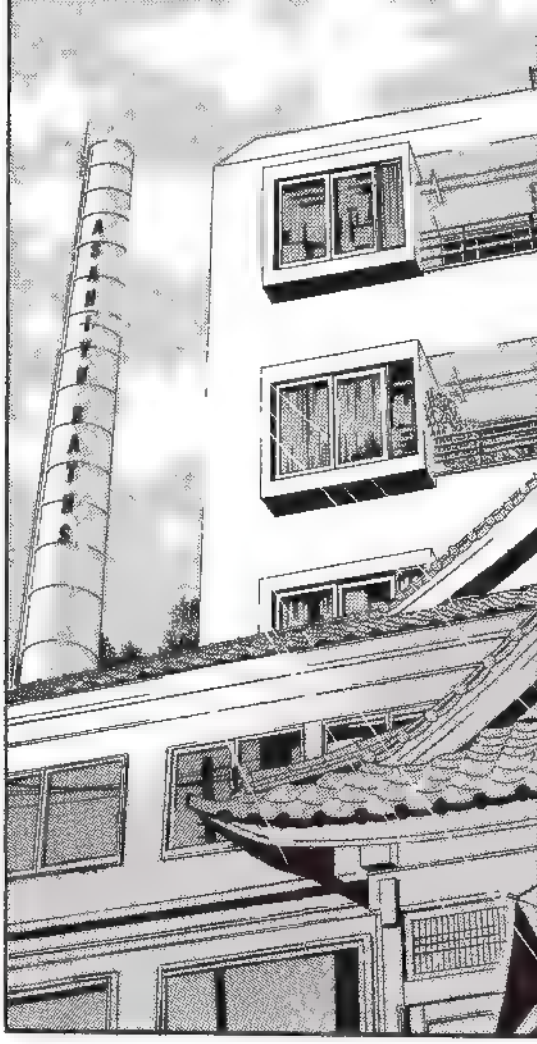
EVERY-BODY'S MAD AT ME...
...TO-NIGHT.
SWRD
FWIP
.....

I HATE YOU!!
I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME HER...

...GO APOLOGIZE...
CLOP
CLOP
I'D BETTER...
...GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN...
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO...
I-I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE KISSED HER...
AND SHE PROBABLY REALLY HATES ME NOW...
YOU KNOW WHAT? I REALLY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WRONG!
WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING.

BUT IF I GIVE IN TO HER WAY OF THINKING...
...IT WOULD MEAN THAT ALL OF THIS EFFORT HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT A BIG WASTE OF TIME.

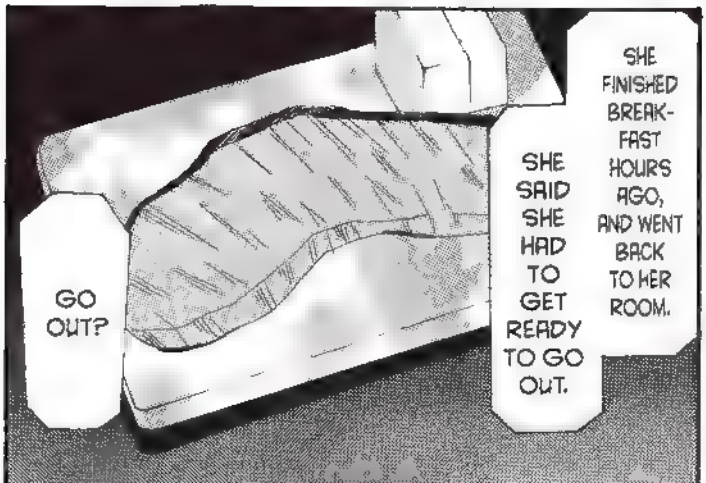
SLIDE
YAWN
GOOD MORNING.



YOU SURE GOT UP LATE, YAMATO-KUN.
I KNOW IT'S YOUR DAY OFF...BUT REALLY, HOW CAN YOU SLEEP SO MUCH?
AH... AND YOUR HAIR IS A MESS.
HEH HEH... SORRY..
MEOW

AH... IS ASAHINA STILL ASLEEP, TOO?
OF COURSE NOT.

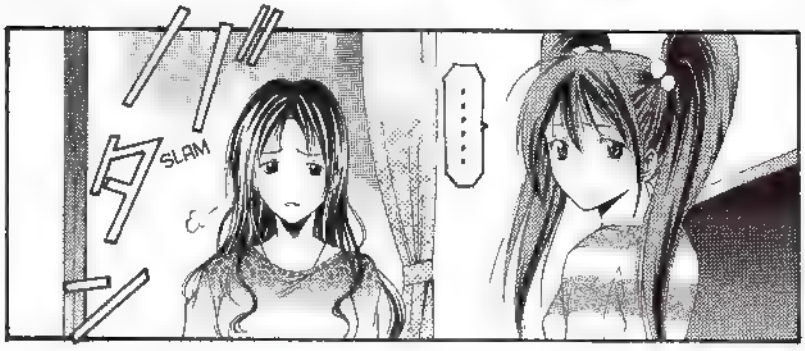
AFTER ALL THAT RUNNING AROUND LAST NIGHT...
IT'S NO WONDER I'M SO BEAT TODAY...


SHE FINISHED BREAK-FAST HOURS AGO, AND WENT BACK TO HER ROOM.
SHE SAID SHE HAD TO GET READY TO GO OUT.
GO OUT?

SHE SAID SHE'S GOING BACK HOME TO VISIT HER FRIEND'S GRAVE!
YEAH. SINCE SHE HAS THE DAY OFF...
WHAT?
SHOCK
SO SHE'S JUST GONNA KEEP ON DOING THAT?
GRRIP
OH... IT'S NO-THING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.

FWHOOSH
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE HER WAY OF SHOOTING ME DOWN?

THANKS, I'M FINISHED!!


SLAM
.....

DON'T KNOW...
HE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY...
CHOMP
CHOMP
WHAT'S WITH HIM...?

AH... YAMATO-KUN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU HAVE TO EAT YOUR BREAKFAST, YAMATO-KUN!

SEN
PAI
1

302
SUZUKA ASAHINA

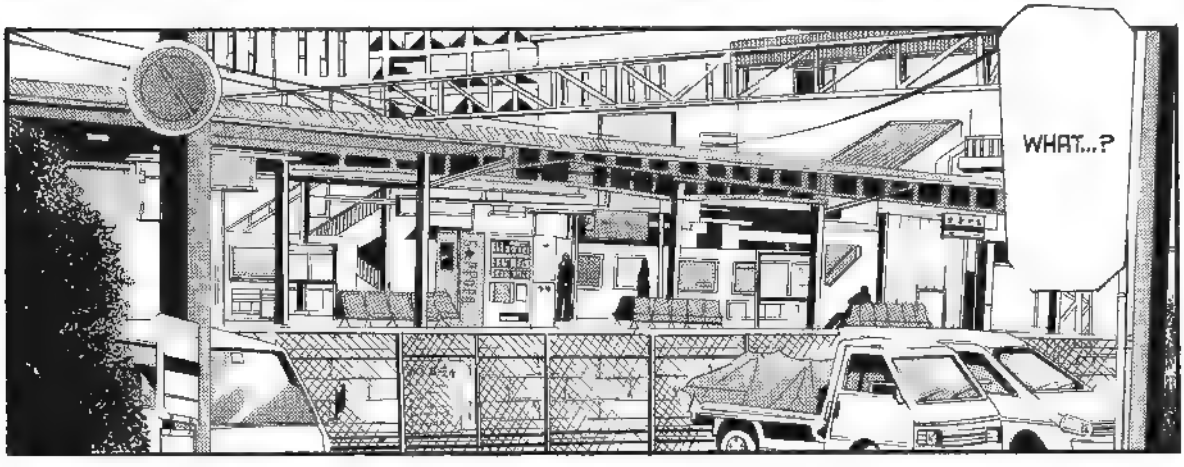
302
Y-YAMATO-KUN..
.....

AH...
SPUNKY CITY

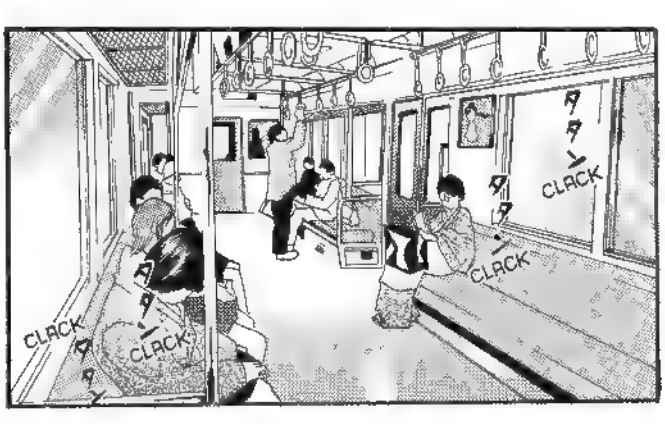
WHAT?
STOP IT!

QUIT GOING TO...
TSUDA'S GRAVE!
IT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING!
YOU CAN'T JUST KEEP GOING THERE ALONE LIKE THIS!?
ASAHIYU BATHS

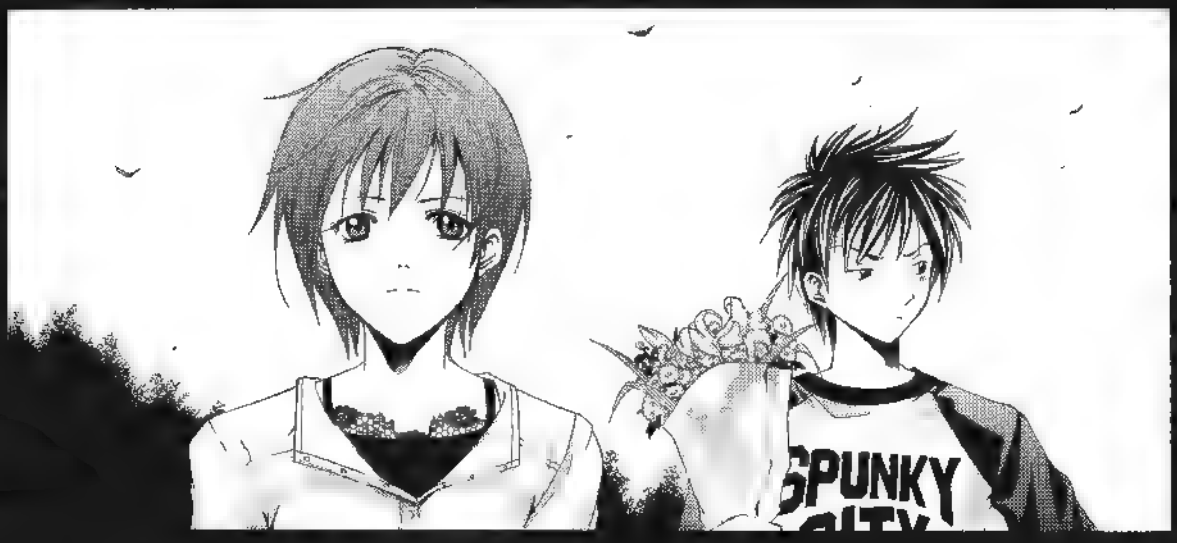
FWHOOSH
FINE THEN...
COME WITH ME, YAMATO-KUN.
SPUNKY CITY


WHAT...?

COME WITH YOU...?

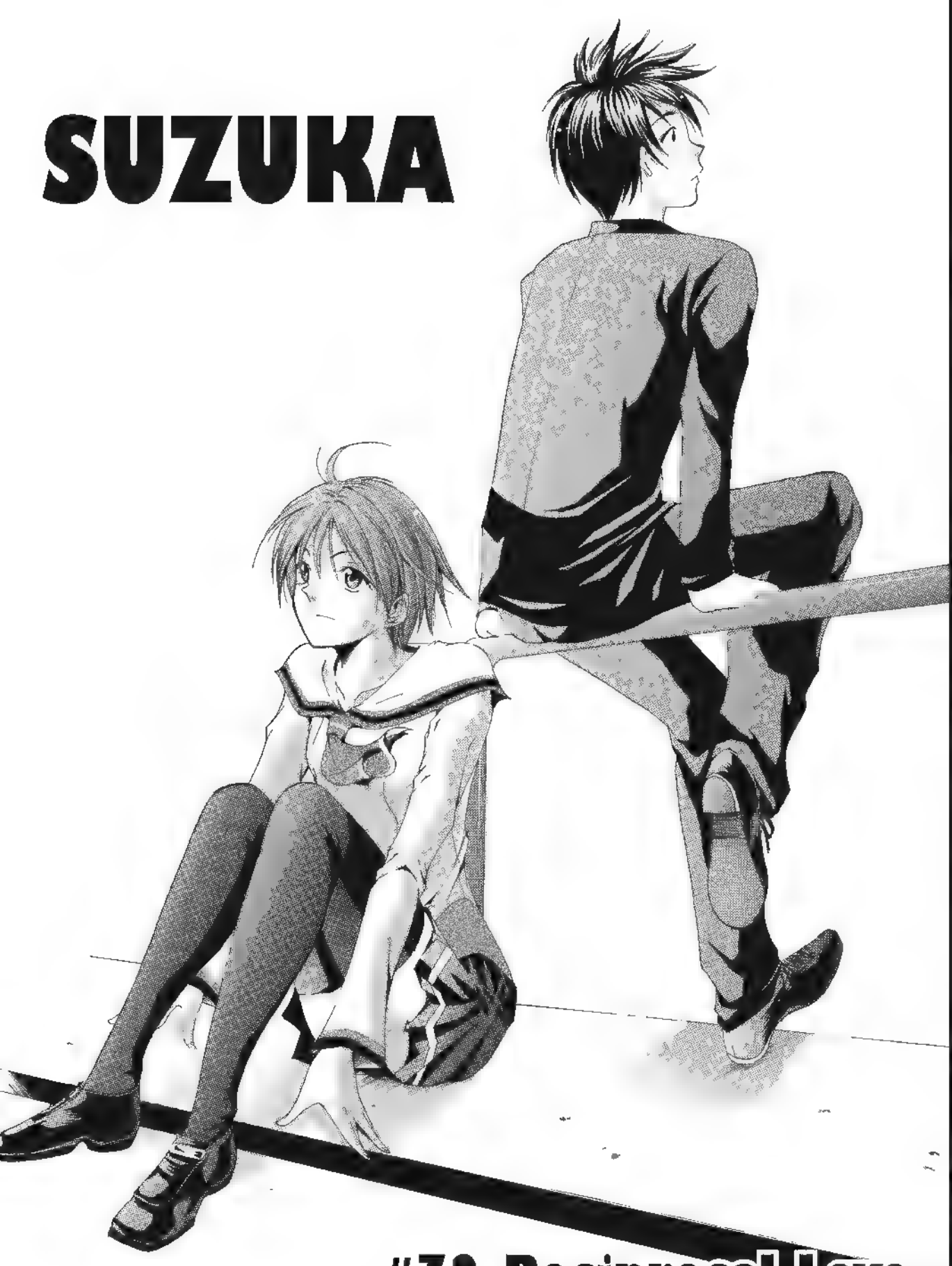

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S TAKING ME TO TSUDA'S GRAVE.
.....
WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO?

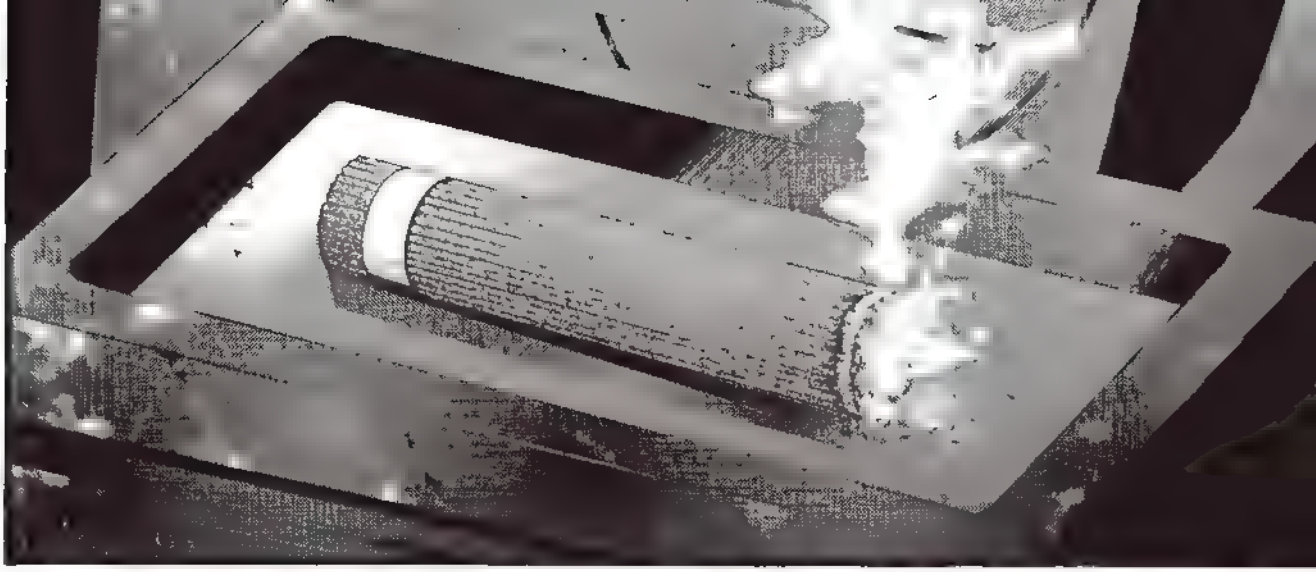

PUNKY

TSUDA
FAMILY

SUZUKA



#72 Reciprocal Love

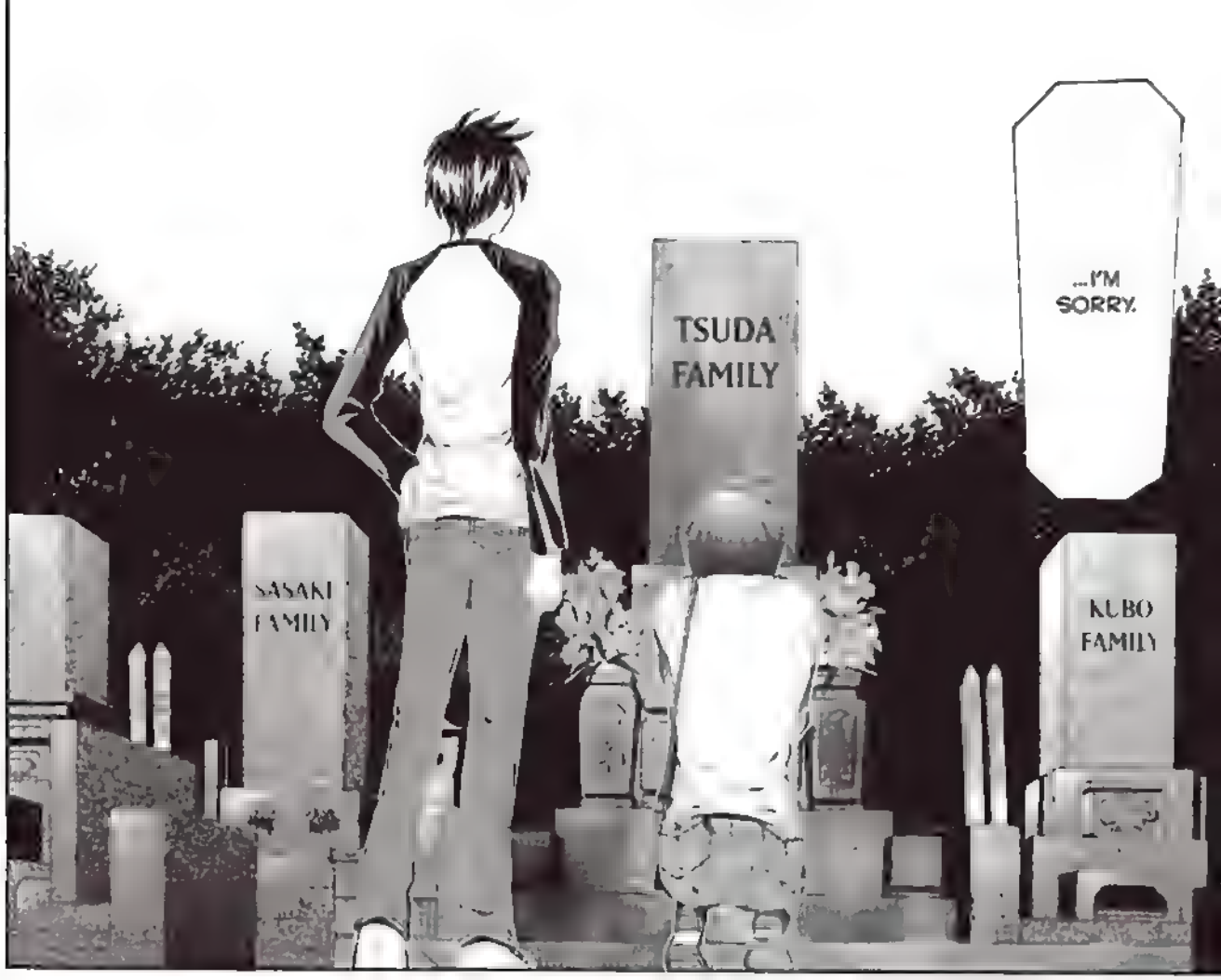


...WHAT THE HELL IS SHE THINKING?
DRAGGING ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE ...

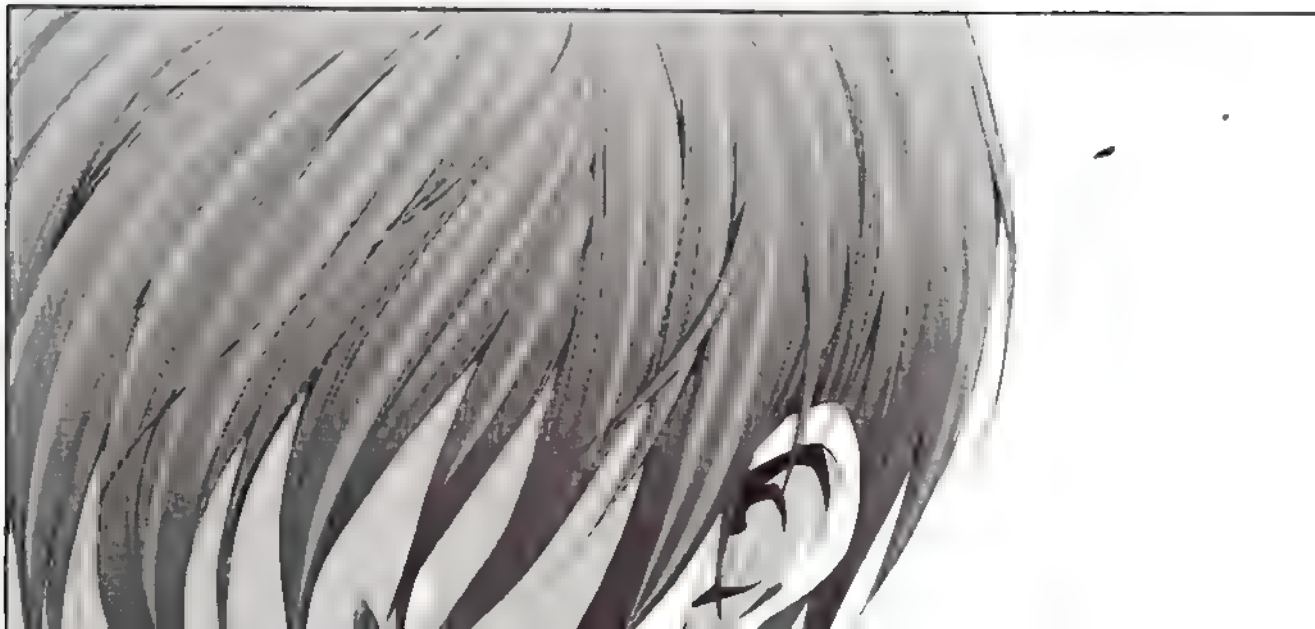
SPUNKY CITY

……
SPUN
CIT

SPUNKY
CITY
SPUNKY
CITY
SPUNKY
CITY


...I'M SORRY.
TSUDA FAMILY
SASAKI FAMILY
KUBO FAMILY

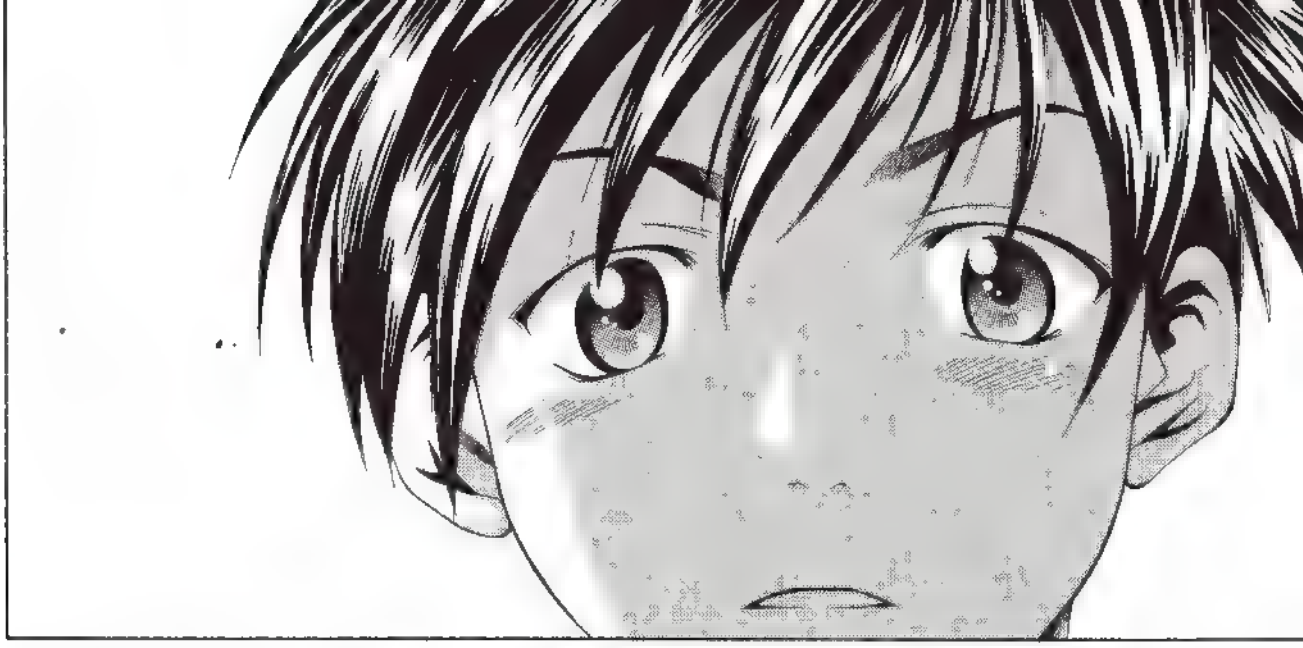
WHAT?



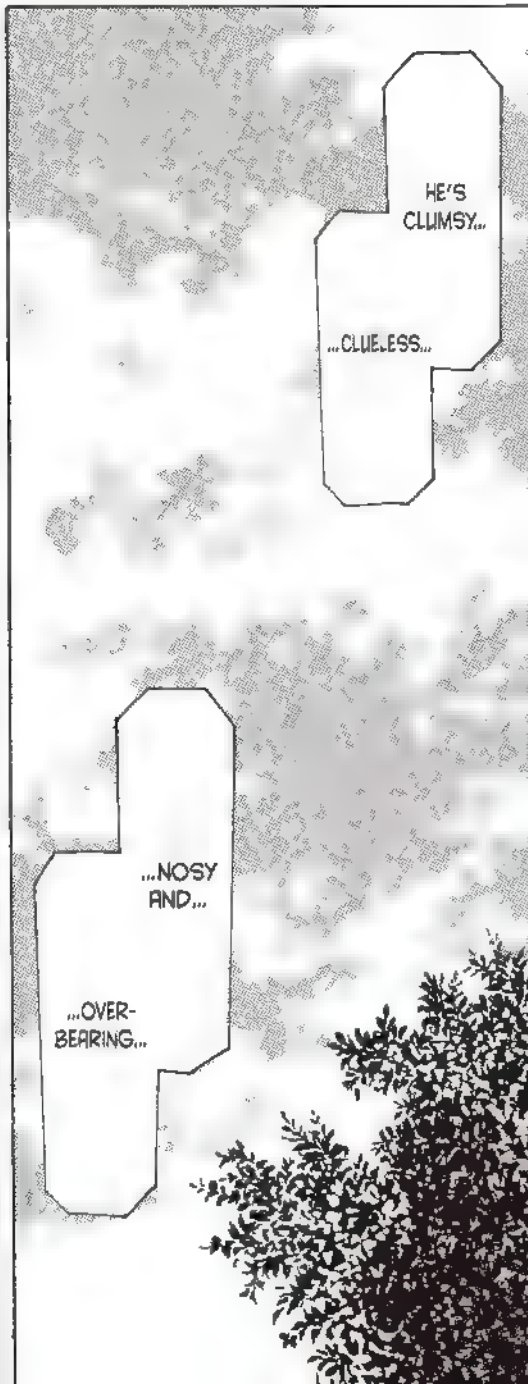
.....?
ASAHINA...?
I CAN'T...
...BE WITH YOU, TSUDA-SENPAI...

I...

SPUNK
CITY
...I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...



AND ALL WE EVER DO IS FIGHT...

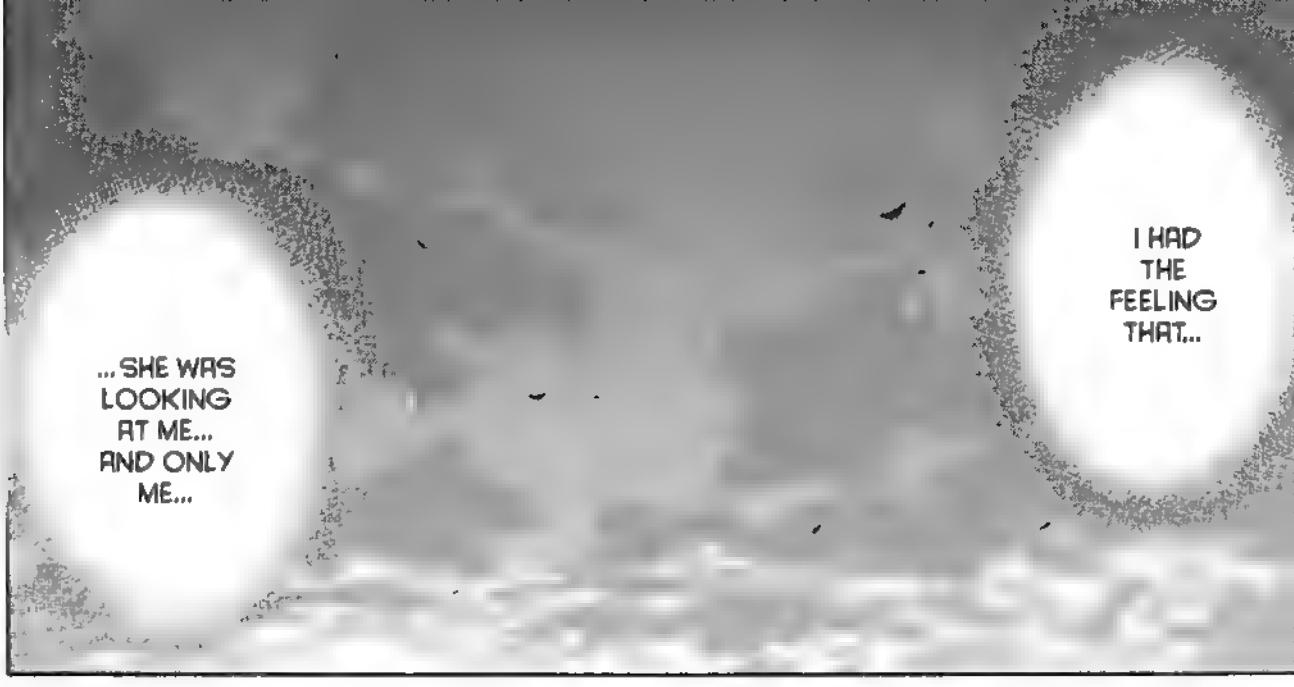

HE'S CLUMSY...
...CLUELESS...
...NOSY AND...
...OVER-BEARING...

BUT...
.....
I REALLY LIKE HIM.

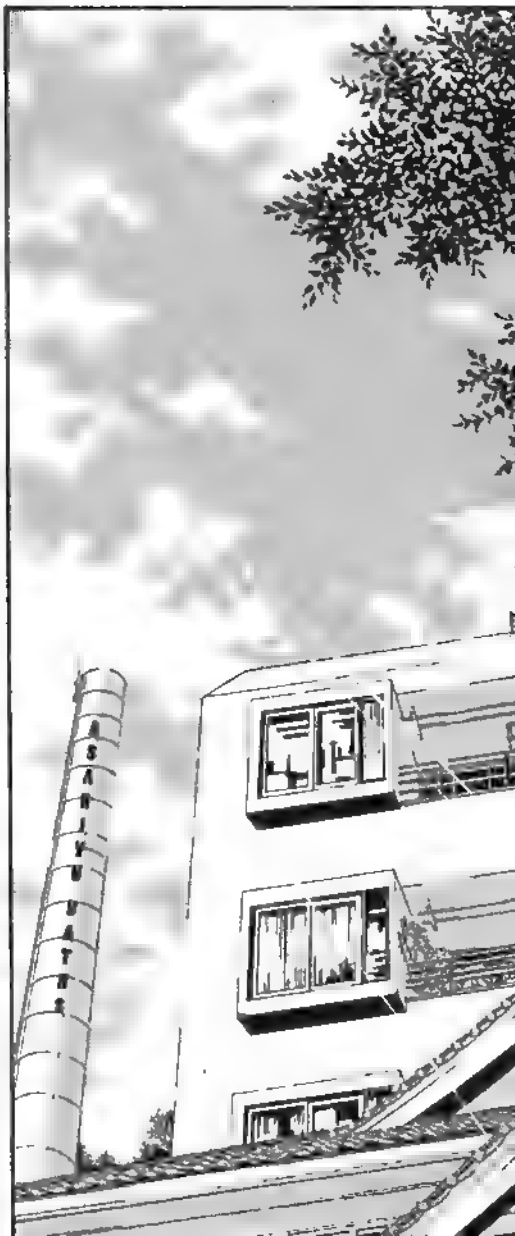
SPUNKY CITY
PWISH
I'M SORRY
SO...
UM...
SENPAI
TSUDA FAMILY
.....

SHALL WE HEAD HOME?
Y-YEAH...
AT THAT MOMENT, ASAHINA LOOKED...

... LIKE THE CUTEST GIRL I'D EVER SEEN...
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER...


I HAD THE FEELING THAT...
...SHE WAS LOOKING AT ME... AND ONLY ME...

YOU DRINK TOO MUCH, SAOTOME-SAN. YOU'RE GONNA RUIN YOUR LIVER, YOU KNOW?
CLOP
CLOP
AHHH.. MY HEAD HURTS...


FAMILY RESTAURANT

HA... YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, MEGUMI-CHAN...

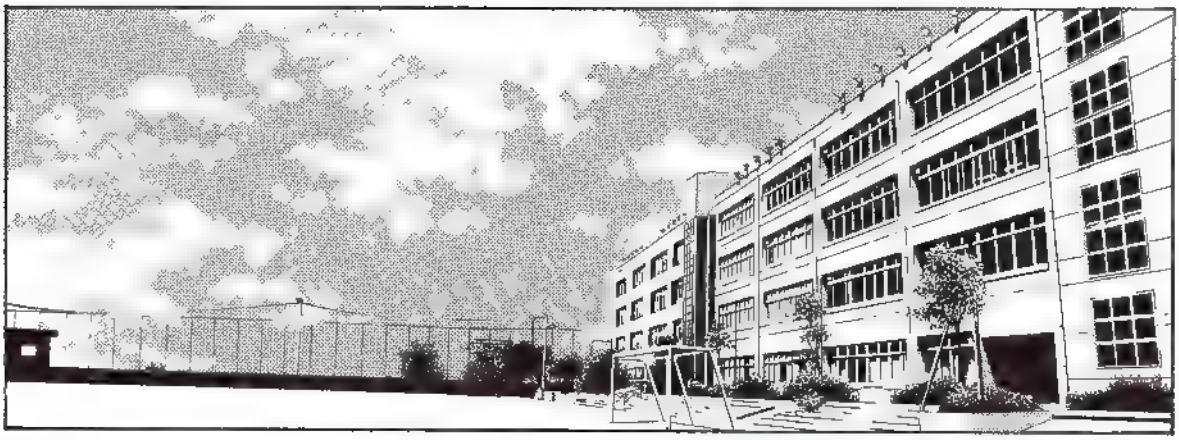
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SUZUKA-CHAN? YOU'D BETTER HURRY OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
WHAT...?
AH... YEAH, BUT...
..OH, I GET IT
YOU'RE WAITING FOR YAMATO-KUN, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT!?
AH... SUZUKA-CHAN.
WHOOSH
N-NO!! I WAS JUST HANGING OUT!!
MAYBE THINGS ARE FINALLY WORKING OUT FOR THOSE TWO.
SURPRISINGLY..
WELL, THAT WOULD BE NICE...
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
SORRY, ASAHINA!!
HUH!?
WHERE'S ASAHINA...?

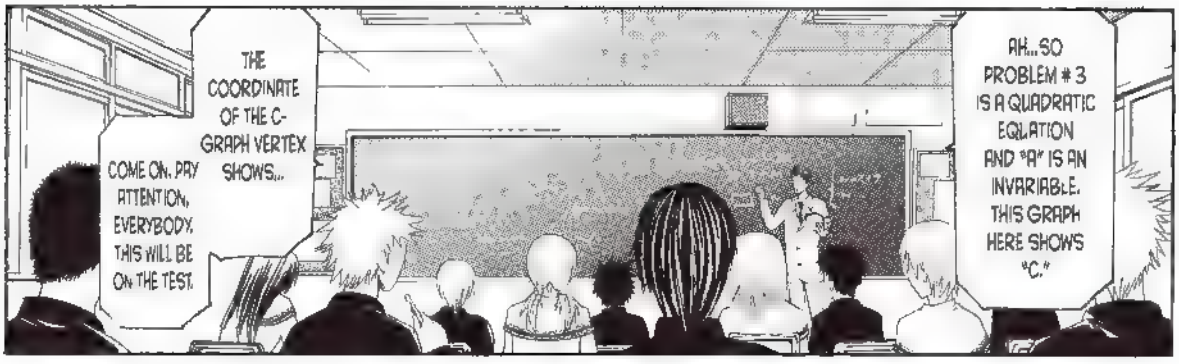
WELL...
GOOD LUCK.
WHAT!? SHE DID!?
STOP IT, SAOTOME-SAN.
YOU MADE HER WAIT TOO LONG! SHE GOT PISSED AND TOOK OFF.
STOP IT...
SHE SAID SHE HATES YOU.
TAPPA
TAPPA
OH, SHIT!!
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
H-HEY..
UM...
, ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I WENT TO TOKYO...
.....
THE REAL CHALLENGE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN...
ASAHINA!
WAIT UP!!
CLOP
CLOP

...MAYBE MY LIFE...
...WOULD FINALLY CHANGE.
.....!
U-UM...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I'LL LET GO OF YOUR HAND...

I HAVE A FEELING...
GRAB
...IT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

#73 The Trip Home
SUZUKA




COME ON, PAY ATTENTION, EVERYBODY. THIS WILL BE ON THE TEST.
THE COORDINATE OF THE C-GRAPH VERTEX SHOWS...
AH...SO PROBLEM # 3 IS A QUADRATIC EQUATION AND "A" IS AN INVARIABLE. THIS GRAPH HERE SHOWS "C."

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WE'RE ACTUALLY A COUPLE NOW... AREN'T WE?
WE'RE...

PLUNK
TOMMORROW'S YOUR MIDTERM EXAM, SO THERE WILL BE NO CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY.
PLEASE, EVERYBODY GO STRAIGHT HOME AND STUDY FOR YOUR TEST.

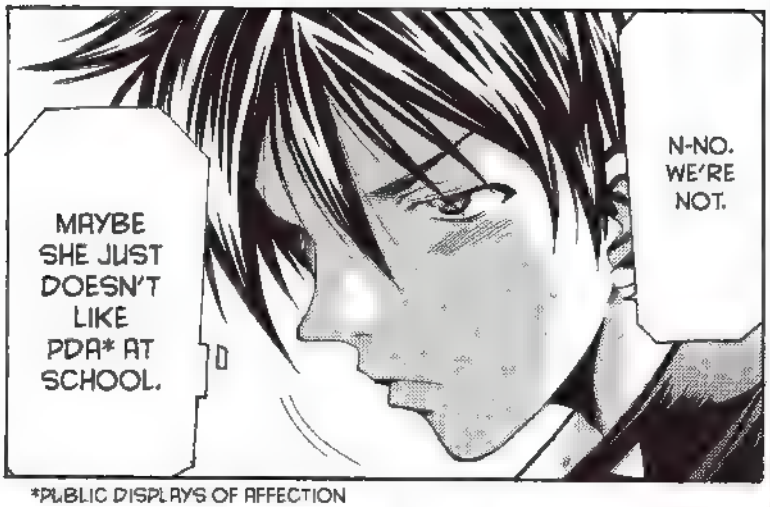
1-C
...A REAL COUPLE!
ALL RIGHT. THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.

NO CLUB ACTIVITIES TODAY?

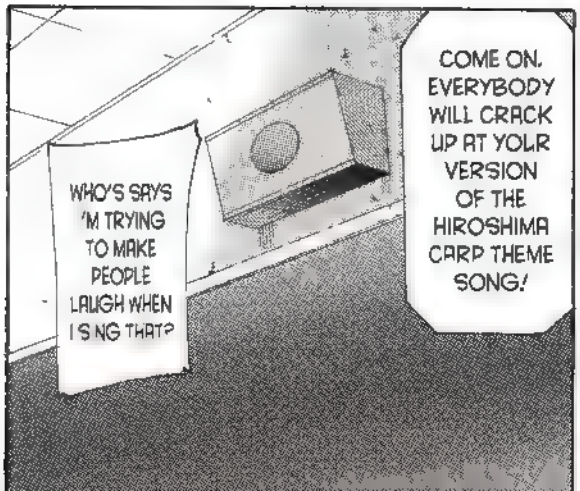
YEAH, I TRIED TO GO A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT IT'S ALWAYS SOLD OUT.
YOU, TOO, SUZUKA?

THAT MEANS I CAN WALK HOME WITH ASAHINA!
FWUP

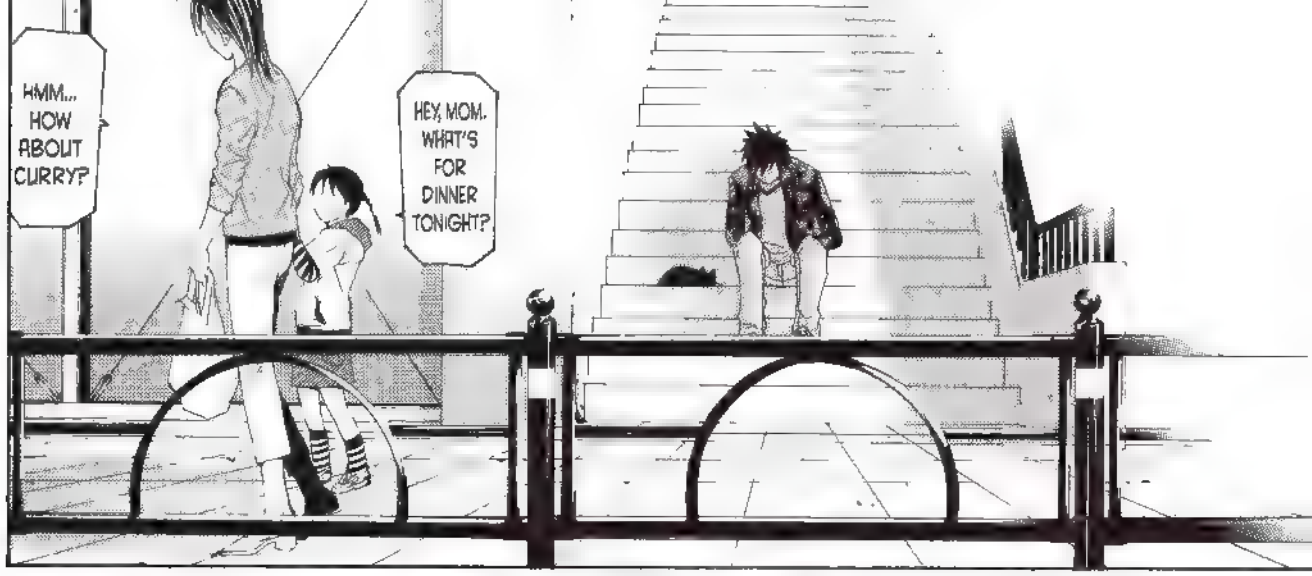
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE TRACK PRACTICE TODAY...
DO YOU WANNA WALK HOME TOGETHER...
ASAHINA!
H-HEY, ASAHINA.
FWIP
WHAT'S WRONG, SUZUKA?
SORRY, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.



*PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

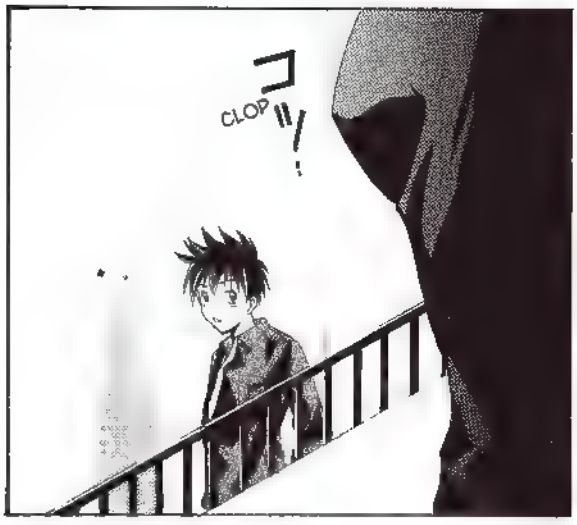

COME ON. EVERYBODY WILL CRACK UP AT YOUR VERSION OF THE HIROSHIMA CARP THEME SONG!
WHO'S SAYS I'M TRYING TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH WHEN I SING THAT?

IT'S THE DAY BEFORE MIDTERMS, WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING?
SHE SURE IS LATE...
MEOWS
RIGHT, GORO-CHAN?
SINCE SHE SEEMED SO UNCOM-FORTABLE AT SCHOOL, I WAS HOPING TO TALK TO HER HERE...


HMM... HOW ABOUT CURRY?
HEY, MOM. WHAT'S FOR DINNER TONIGHT?

ALL RIGHT! DO YOU THINK DAD WILL BE HOME EARLY?

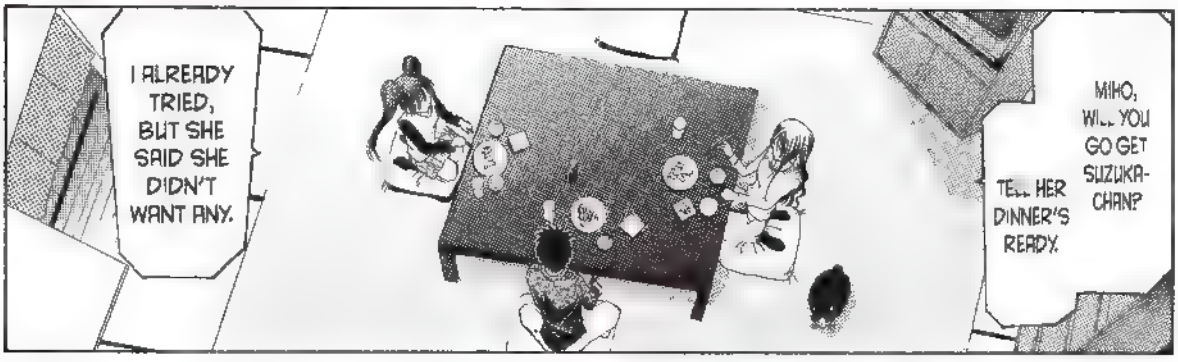
DON'T KNOW.

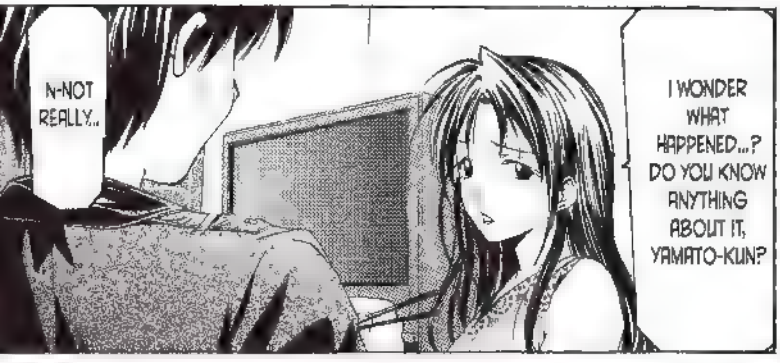

CLOP

MEOW.
I'D BETTER GO BACK TO MY ROOM..
SEE YA, GORO-CHAN.

AH...
HEY, YOU'RE HOME LATE!!
WHOOSH
.....
HUH..?
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
H-HEY...
WHAT'S WRONG, ASAKINA?

!?
WHAT!?
WELL, EXCUSE ME...
.....
WHAT...
...FOR BEING LATE!!
WHAT WAS THAT?


I ALREADY TRIED, BUT SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT ANY.
TELL HER DINNER'S READY.
MIHO, WILL YOU GO GET SUZUKA-CHAN?

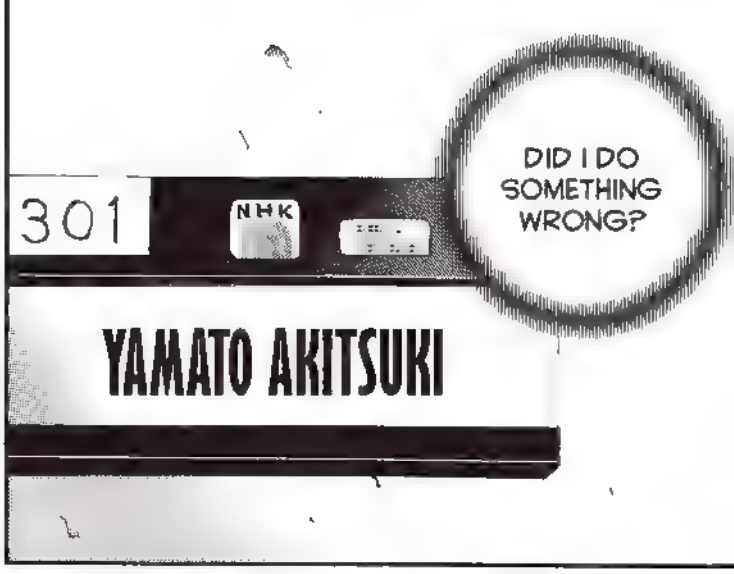

N-NOT REALLY...
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...? DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, YAMATO-KUN?

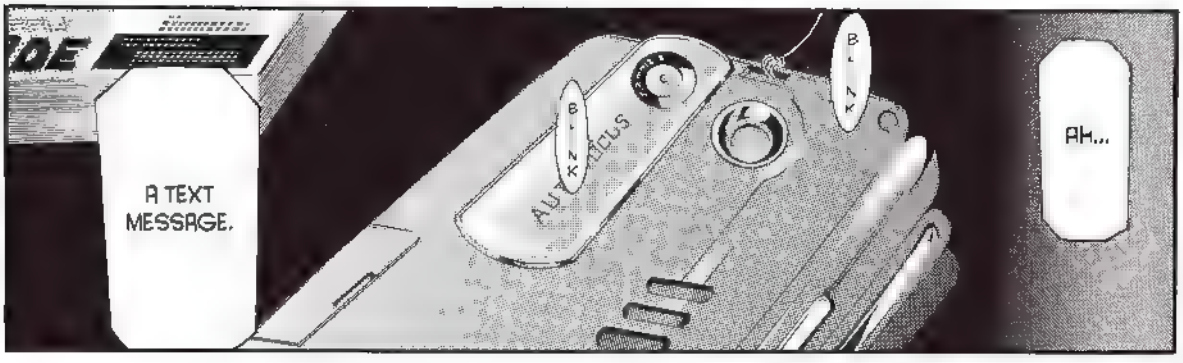
ARE YOU GUYS FIGHTING AGAIN?
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD LATELY...

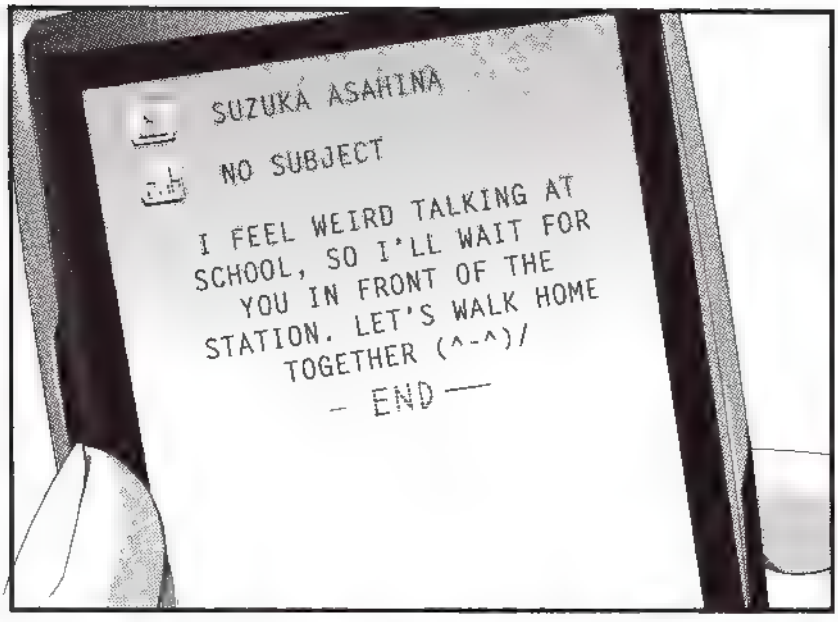
I DON'T GET HER AT ALL!
PLUNK
NO! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT....

SHE SOUNDED REALLY MAD.
.....

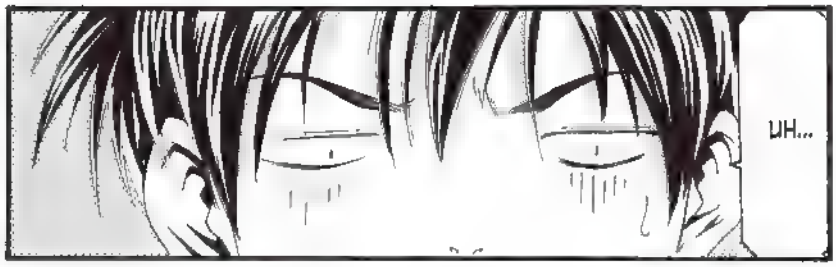
SIGH
SLIDE

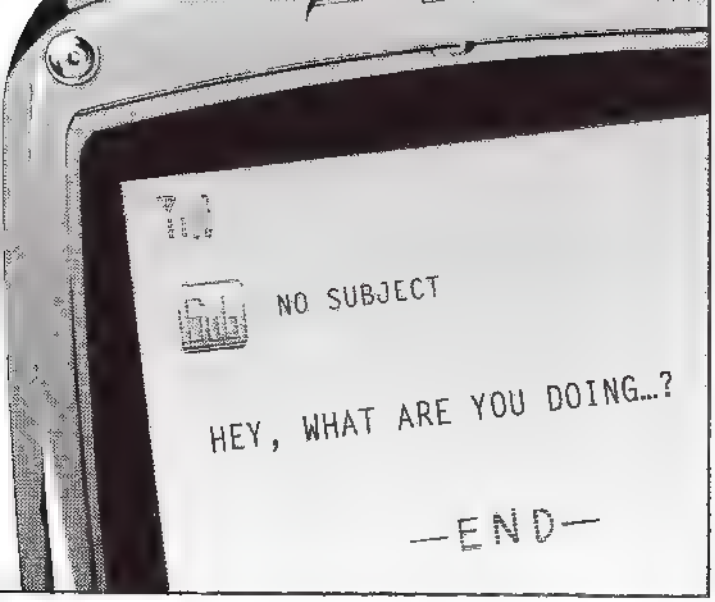

301
NHK
YAMATO AKITSUKI
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

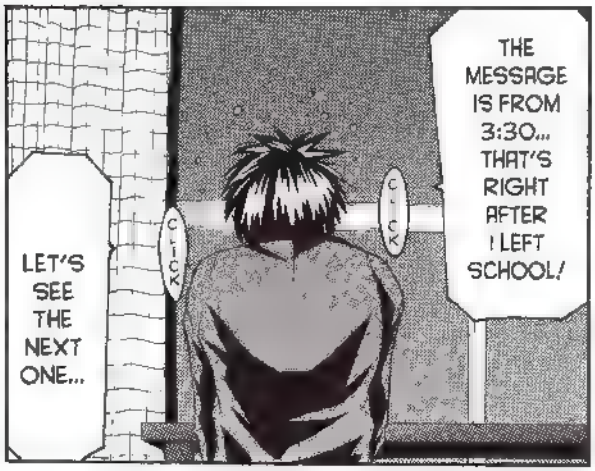

A TEXT MESSAGE.
AH...


SUZUKA ASAHINA
NO SUBJECT
I FEEL WEIRD TALKING AT SCHOOL, SO I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN FRONT OF THE STATION. LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER (^-^)/
— END —

HUH? THREE MESSAGES...
THEY'RE ALL FROM ASAHINA!!


UH...


NO SUBJECT
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
—END—


THE MESSAGE IS FROM 3:30... THAT'S RIGHT AFTER I LEFT SCHOOL!
CLICK
CLICK
LET'S SEE THE NEXT ONE...

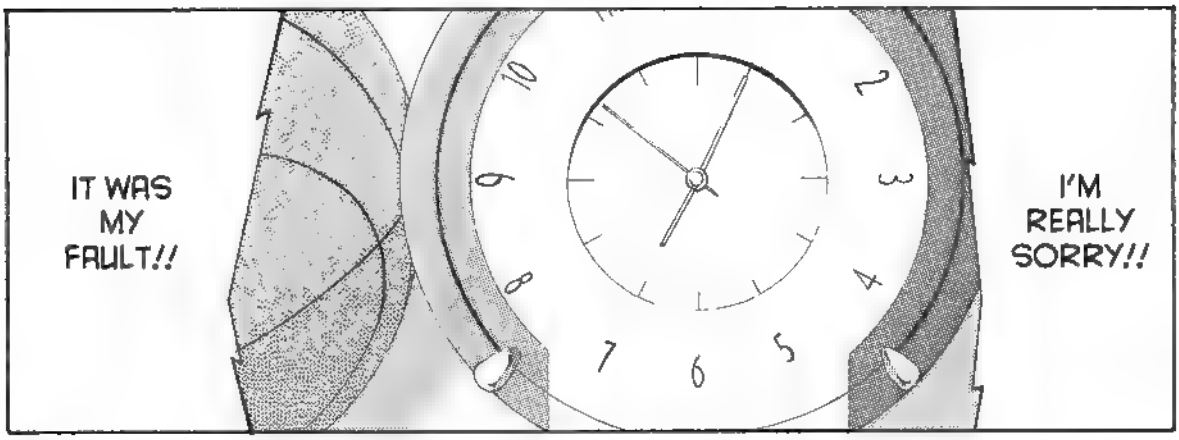
FWAHH

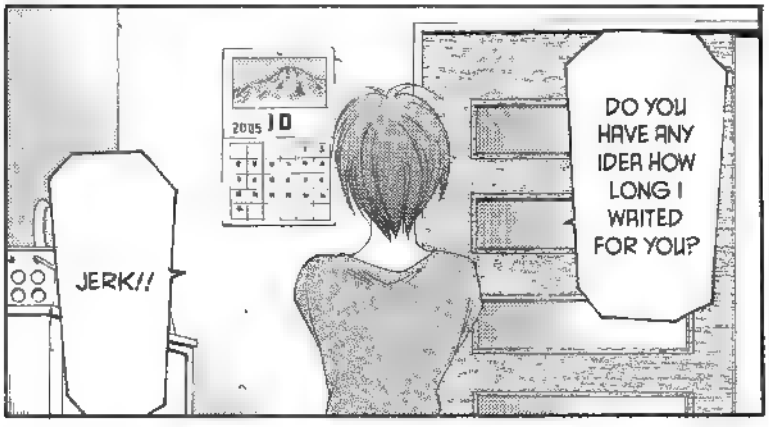
I'M GOING HOME...
CLICK

T-TWO HOURS? DID SHE WAIT FOR ME FOR TWO WHOLE HOURS!?
FWUMP
WAAHHH!! WHAT HAVE I DONE!!

FIVE-THIRTY...
DRIP
DRIP

ASAHINA!! I'M SO SORRY!!
THUMPA
THUMPA
CRACK
. . . !?
I DIDN'T SEE YOUR TEXTS!!
I WASN'T TRYING TO IGNORE YOU!!
I WENT HOME ALONE, BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANNA TALK TO ME AT SCHOOL!!
THUMPA
THUMPA
I REALLY WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH YOU!!
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
WHAT...?


IT WAS MY FAULT!!
I'M REALLY SORRY!!


JERK!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG I WAITED FOR YOU?

HMMPH.
WHATEVER!

COME ON, SAY SOME-THING!
HEY.

ASAHINA-

...GOTTEN AWFULLY QUIET...
HE'S...
TIK TOK
TIK TOK
I REALLY WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH YOU!!
Y-YAMATO-KUN?
KNOCK
KNOCK
.....
CLICK
HEY...
I'M COMING IN, OKAY?
HEY, YAMATO-KUN...
KNOCK
KNOCK

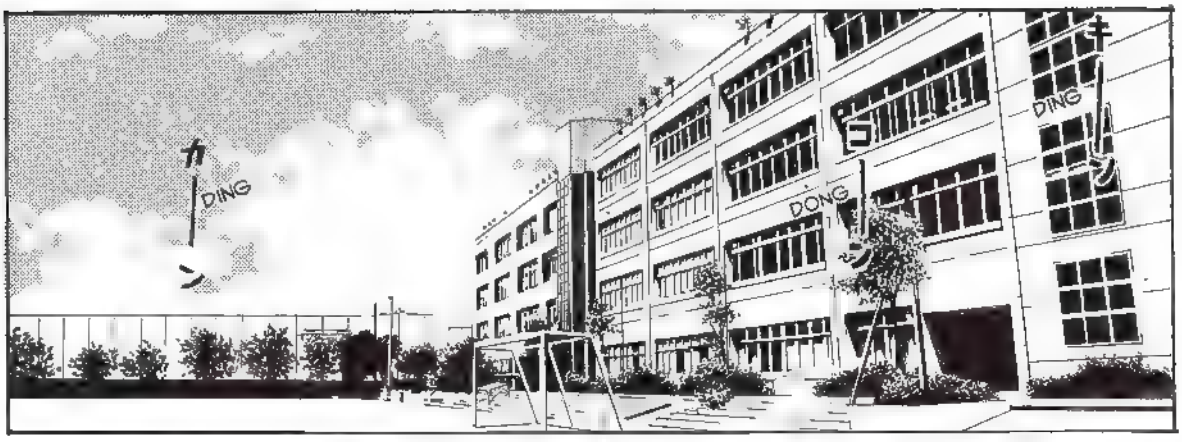
ZZZ...
ARE YOU ASLEEP..?
AH...
MMM...
SORRY, ASAHINA..
REALLY I DON'T--
MUMBLE MUMBLE
TCH...
CLACK

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK YOUR MESSAGES...
CLICK CLICK
Sub
NO SUBJECT
WAIT FOR ME TOMORROW MORNING, OKAY?
END
BUZZ
BUZZ

CHIRP
CHIRP
HMM...
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
IT'S ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY...

SUZUKA

#74 The Brilliant Light


カ
DING
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DONG
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DING
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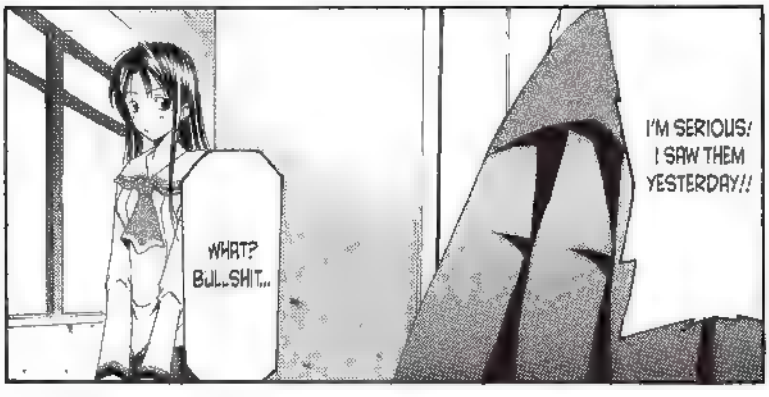
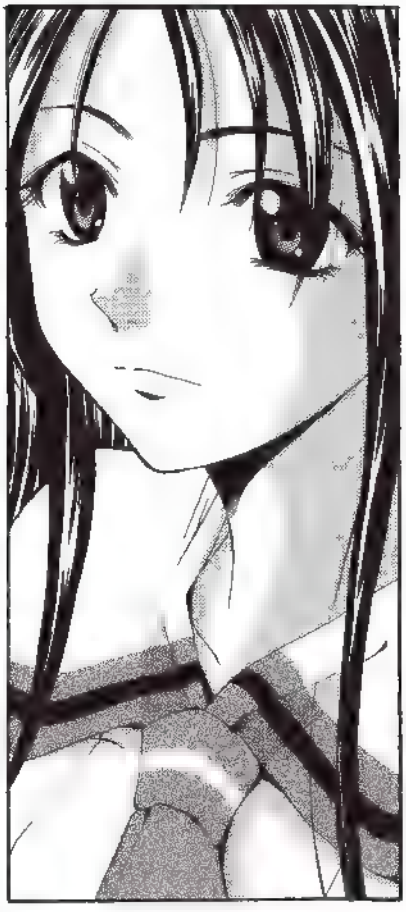
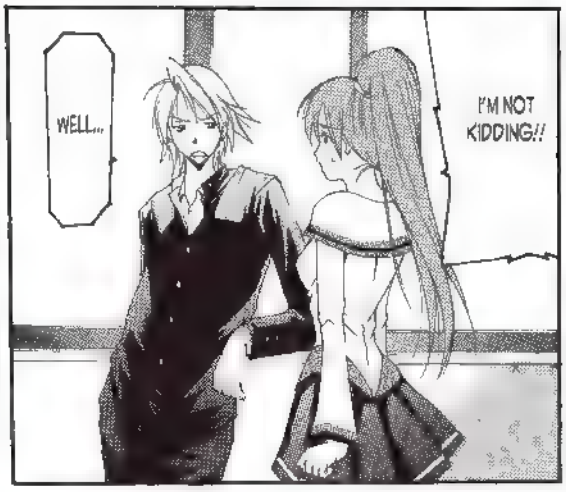
NO, YOU IDIOT. SOCIAL STUDIES IS FIRST.
OH, SHIT. YOU MEAN WE'RE NOT HAVING THE MATH TEST FIRST?


WHAT? BULLSHIT...
I'M SERIOUS! I SAW THEM YESTERDAY!!

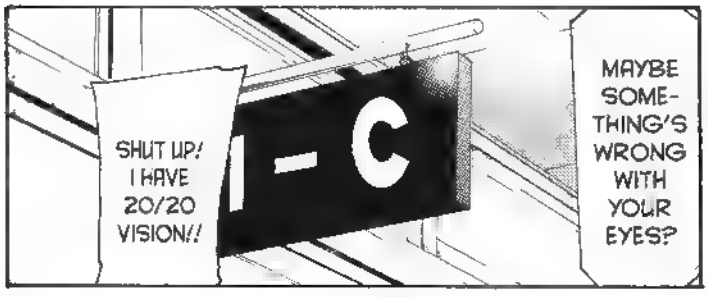


WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?


WELL...
I'M NOT KIDDING!!

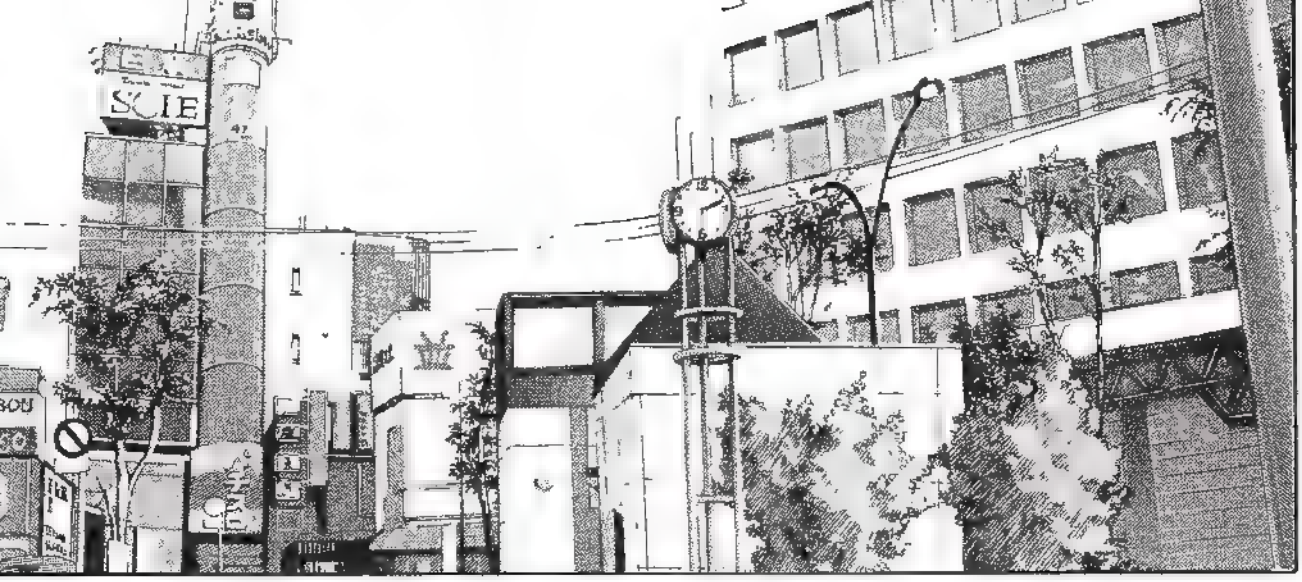
I DON'T BUY IT.
THERE'S NO WAY YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN ARE GOING OUT.

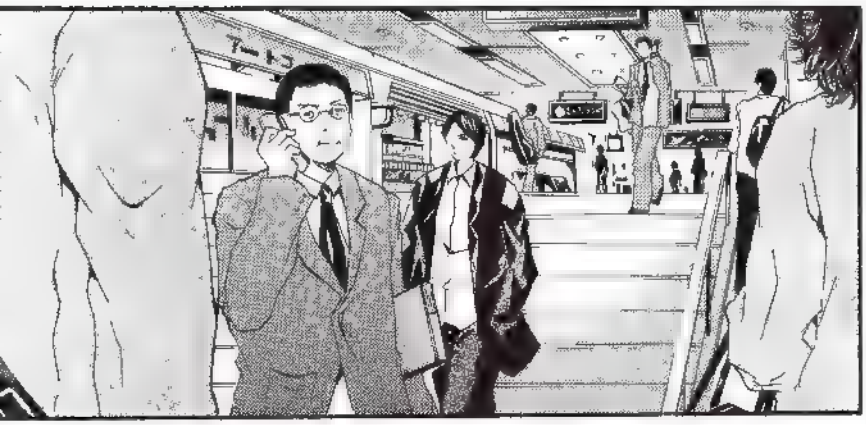
WHAT!?

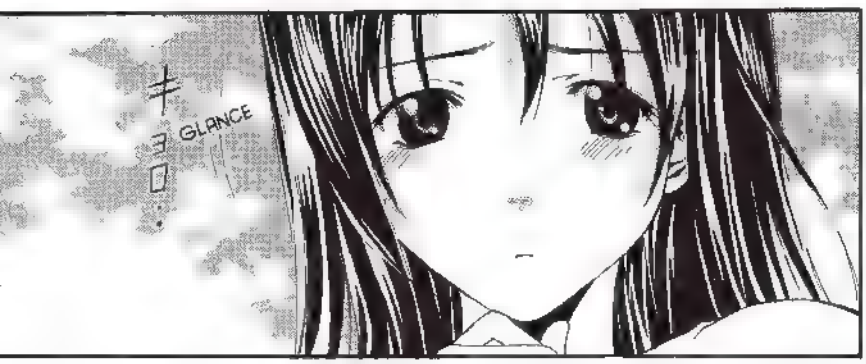

MAYBE SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?
SHUT UP! I HAVE 20/20 VISION!!

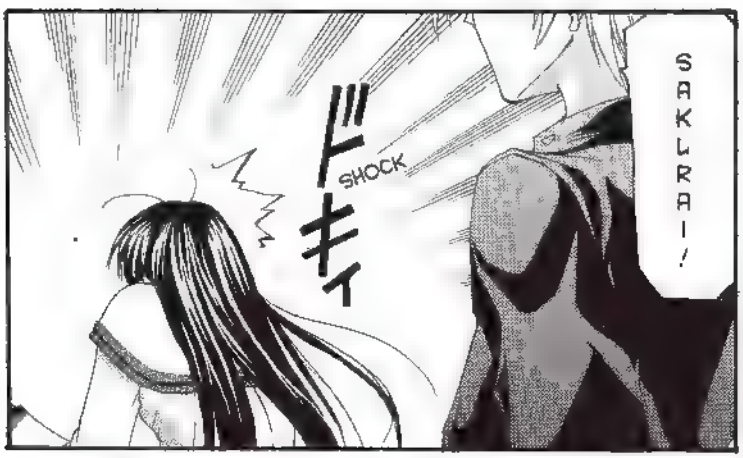
THUMP
THUMP

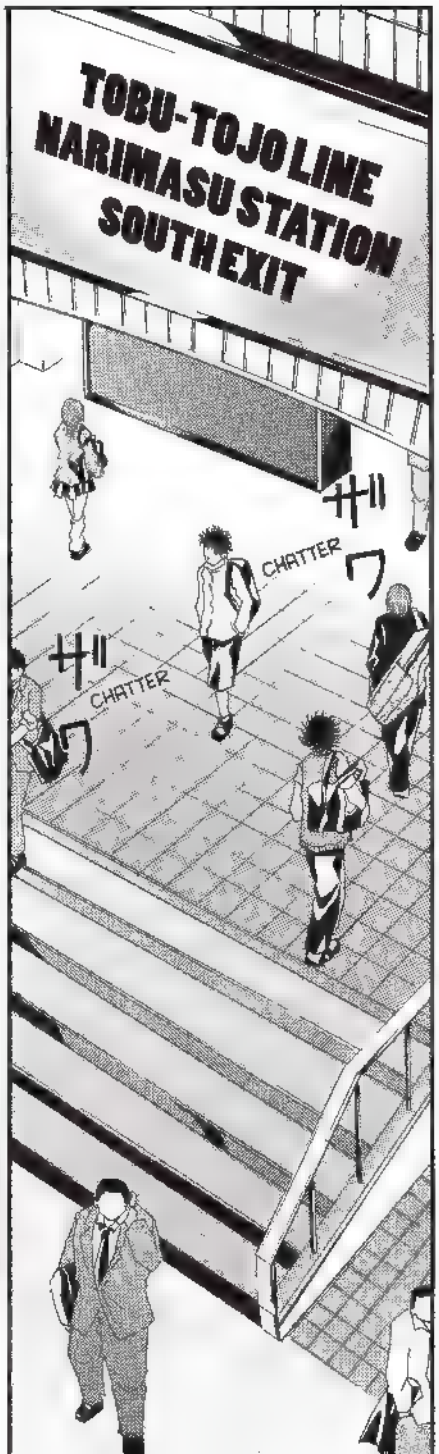
BUT I SAW THEM WALKING HOME TOGETHER HOLDING HANDS!
I SWEAR IT WAS THEM!!


SCIE



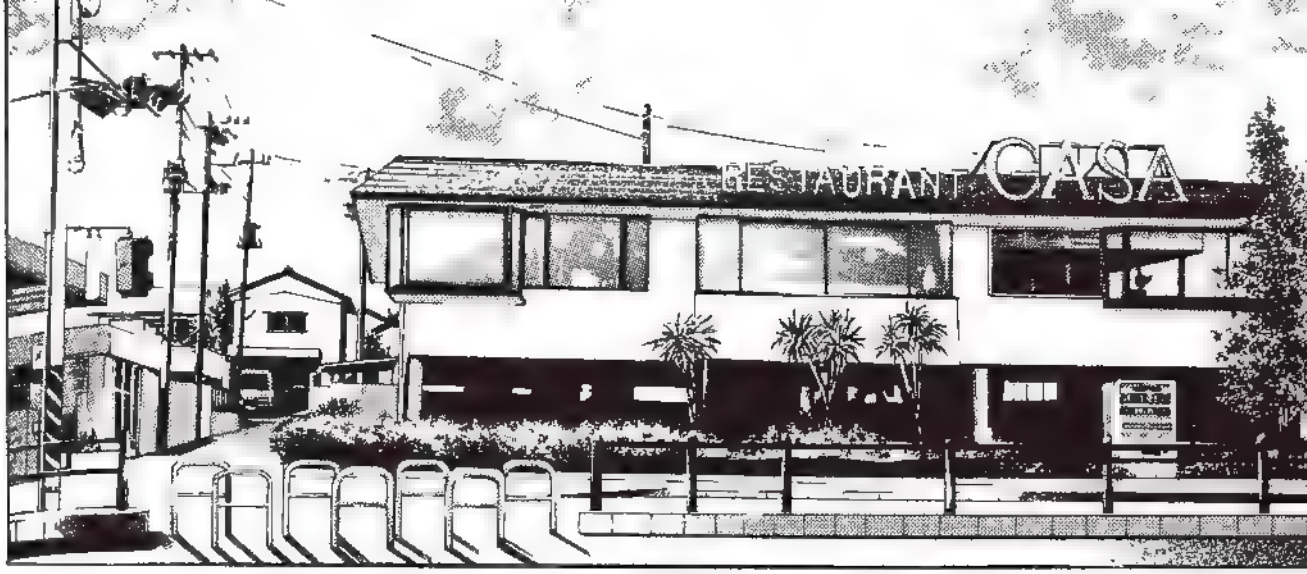

GLANCE

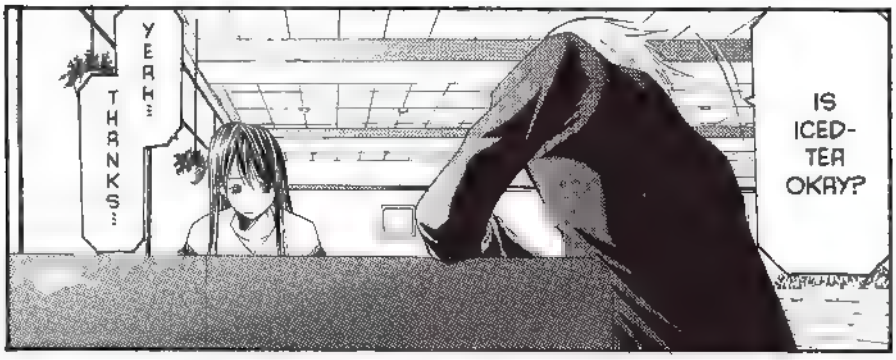

SHOCK
SAKURAI!


TOBU-TOJO LINE
NARIMASU STATION
SOUTH EXIT
CHATTER
CHATTER

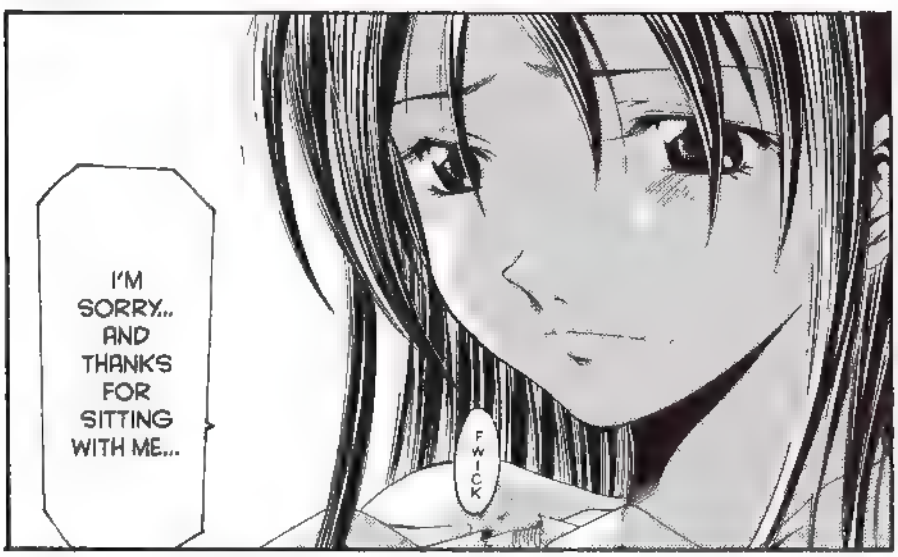
WHAT THE HELL...
...ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I JUST HEARD THIS RUMOR AND...
I CAME TO DO A LITTLE BEHIND-THE-SCENES RESEARCH.
N-NOTHING...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HATTORI-KUN? THIS ISN'T ON YOUR WAY HOME.
I'M SURE IT'S A BOGUS STORY, BUT...
CHATTER
CHATTER
HUH?
AH...

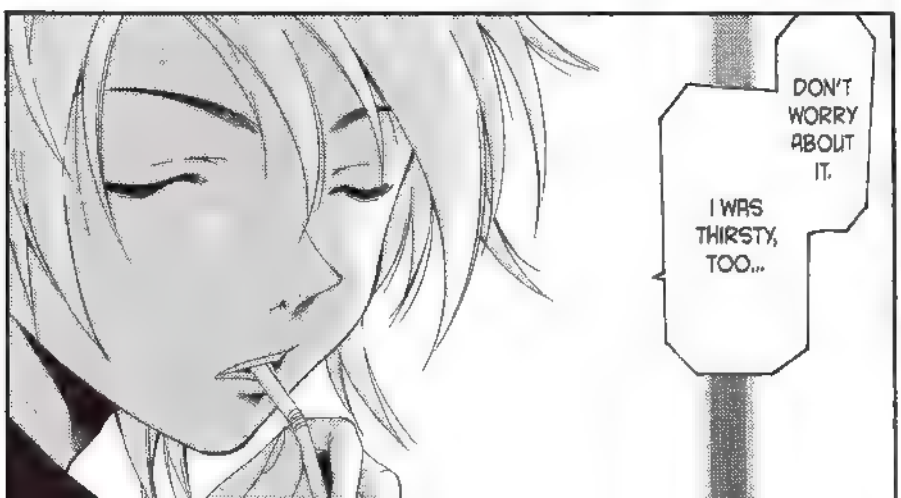
YAMATO AND...
SUZUKA-CHAN...
OH MY GOD, IT'S TRUE.
THEY ARE GOING OUT...
AH..
.....


RESTAURANT CASA

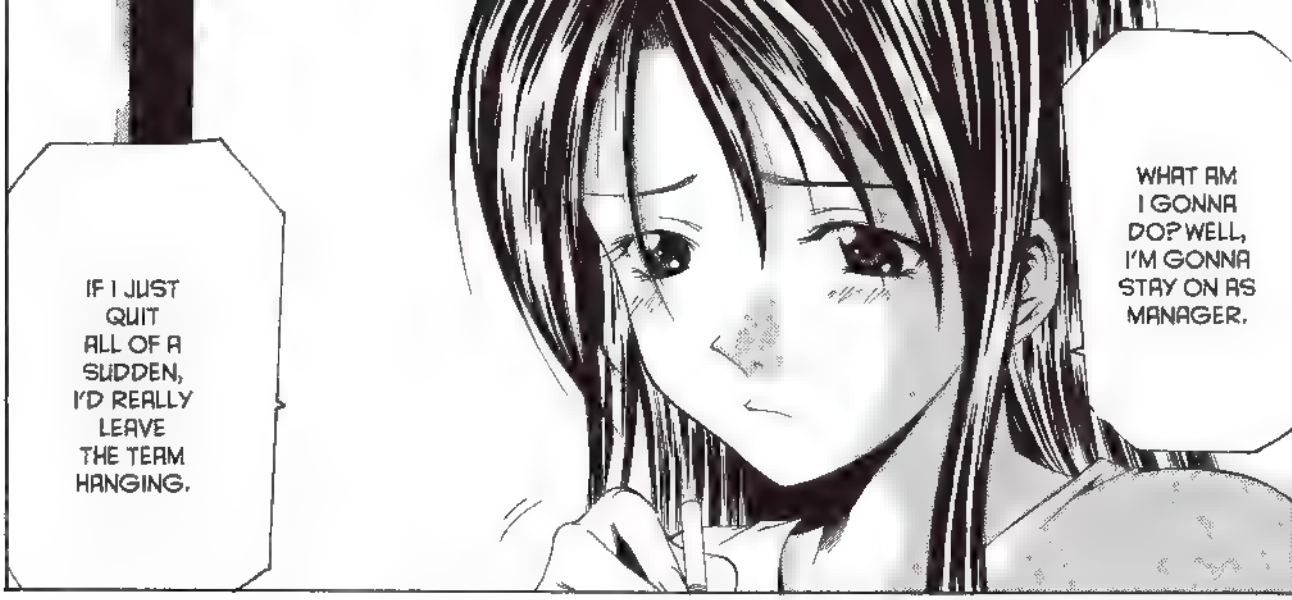

IS ICED-TEA OKAY?
YEAH! THANKS...

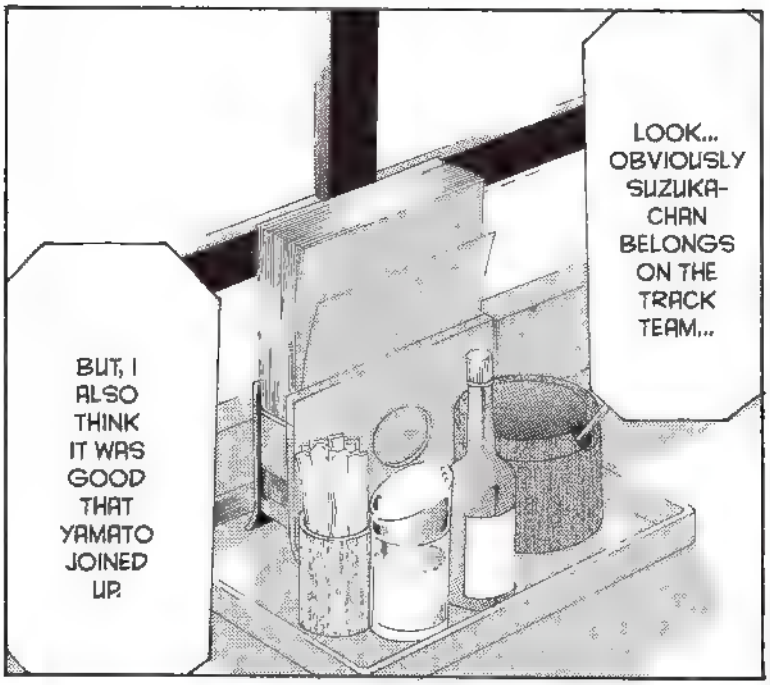
THERE YOU GO.
PLUNK


I'M SORRY... AND THANKS FOR SITTING WITH ME...
FWICK


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WAS THIRSTY, TOO...

CLINK
I ALWAYS KNEW...
...THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN SOME-DAY...
WHAT?
I MEAN, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEY LIKED EACH OTHER...
.....
AFTER MID-TERMS, PRACTICE WILL BE STARTING UP AGAIN.
YEAH...?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? YOU'RE THE TEAM MANAGER.


IF I JUST QUIT ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'D REALLY LEAVE THE TEAM HANGING.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? WELL, I'M GONNA STAY ON AS MANAGER.


BUT, I ALSO THINK IT WAS GOOD THAT YAMATO JOINED UP.
LOOK... OBVIOUSLY SUZUKA-CHAN BELONGS ON THE TRACK TEAM...

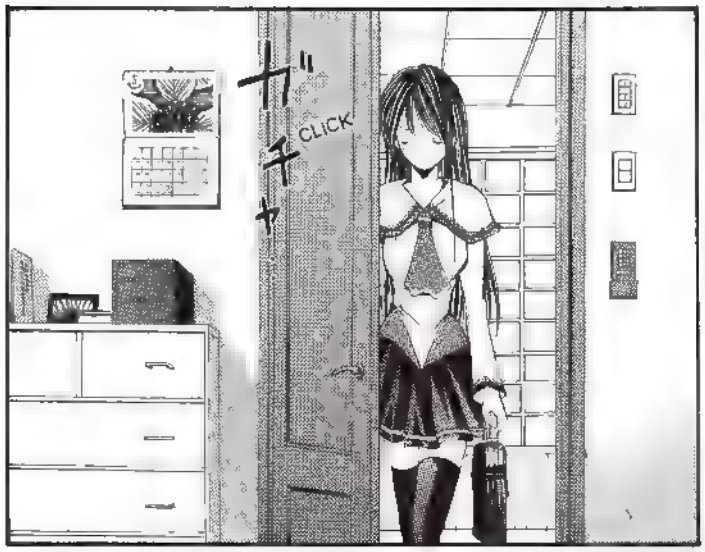
SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA WATCH THEM GETTING ALL LOVEY-DOVEY TOGETHER?
WHAT ELSE AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?

WHAT?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT HE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY?
CLINK
RO-MANCE ASIDE..

YEAH...
ARE YOU REALLY HAPPY BEING THE TRACK TEAM MANAGER?
BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WELL/ I MEAN...
AS LONG AS YOU STAY ON THE TRACK TEAM...
...NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE FOR YOU.

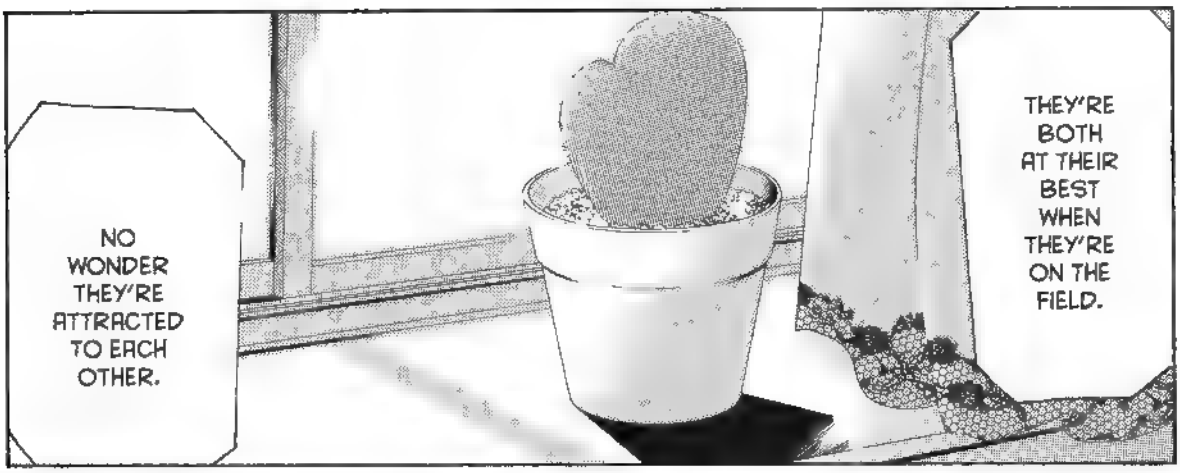
SAKURAI


CLICK

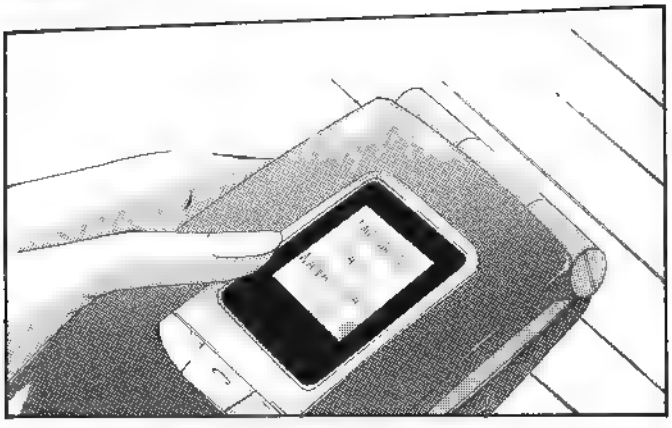
I KNOW HE'S RIGHT.
OF COURSE...

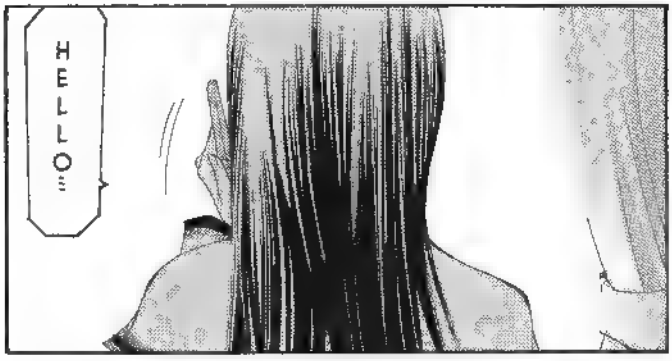
AND AKITSUKI-KUN...

ASAHINA-SAN...


NO WONDER THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER.
THEY'RE BOTH AT THEIR BEST WHEN THEY'RE ON THE FIELD.

DA DI DI DI
DI DA DA




HELLO~

BUT ME...
IF I QUIT MY MANAGER JOB, I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

AH... HONOKA? HOW ARE YA!!?
NANA-CHAN...
WHAT'S UP? YOU DON'T SOUND SO GOOD.
FALLUMP
N-NO, I'M FINE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW'S WORK, NANA?
HUH? I WAS OFF TODAY. I WENT SHOPPING AND BOUGHT TONS OF STUFF!
OH, HEY..
DID YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAGAZINE THAT I SENT YOU THE OTHER DAY?
IT'S GOT THE PICTURES OF US FROM THAT PHOTO SHOOT WE DID.
OH...
YEAH, I DID GET THAT PACKAGE, BUT...
I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT IT. SORRY.
FLIP
GEEZ!

WELL, TAKE A LOOK AT THE PHOTOS! YOU LOOK GREAT IN THEM.
FLIP
FLIP
ESPE-CIALLY THE ONE ON PAGE SIX!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT.
PLAP
I MUST HAVE LOOKED REALLY TENSE IN ALL THOSE PHOTOS...
HUH?
DOG
I DON'T REMEMBER THEM TAKING THIS SHOT...

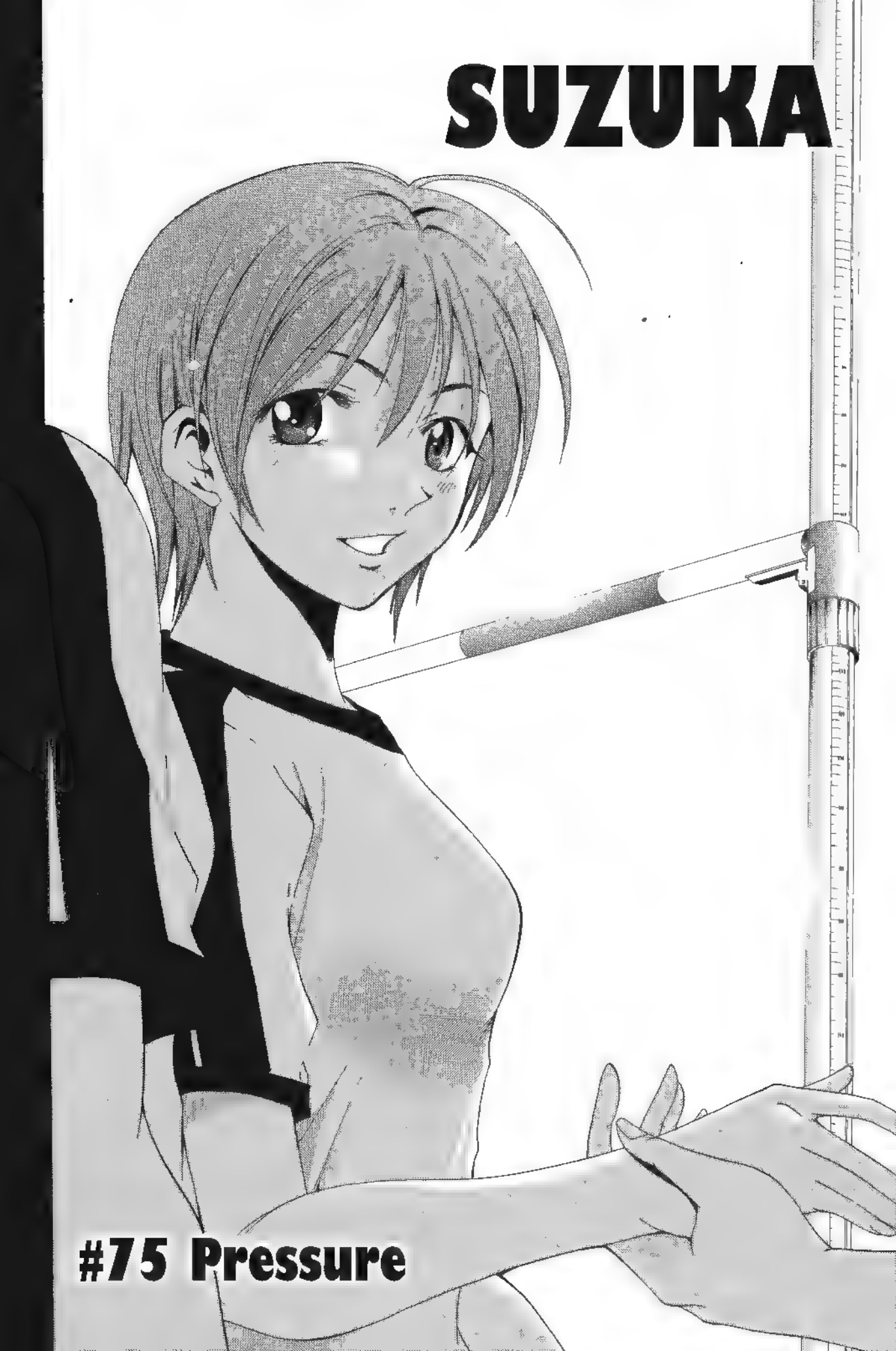
THE PHOTOGRAPHER TOOK IT WHEN WE WEREN'T LOOKING.
THEY LIKED IT, SO THEY PUT IT IN THE MAGAZINE...
WHAT!?
THE THING IS, AFTER IT WAS PUBLISHED, THE RESPONSE WAS SO GOOD THAT...
...PEOPLE KEEP ASKING "WHO'S THAT OTHER MODEL SITTING WITH NANA?"
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...
I'M SERIOUS! JUST LOOK AT THAT PHOTO.
YOU LOOK SO GOOD...
...IN THAT PICTURE, HONOKA.

I...
...LOOK GOOD?
YEAH, SO THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND EVERYONE WERE SAYING...
...THAT THEY WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER PHOTO SHOOT WITH YOU.
BUT YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE THIS KIND OF WORK, RIGHT?
SO I TOLD THEM YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED, BUT..
THEY KEPT TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL.
.....
NOBODY'S EVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE.

I WANT TO TRY IT...
WHAT?
N-NO WAY! REALLY, HONOKA?
EH!
ASAHINA-SAN FOUND A PLACE...
...WHERE SHE COULD TRULY SHINE!
I'M READY TO FIND MINE!

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL TODAY, GUYS!!
GOOD LUCK!!
WHAT?
I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA DO GREAT, ASAHINA!
I WANNA SEE YOU BREAK A NEW RE-CORD!!
SUZUKA

SUZUKA



#75 Pressure

HEY, ENOUGH FOOLING AROUND, YOU GUYS! LET'S START PRACTICE!!
OKAY!
AH... ASAHINA!
YEAH...?
TOMORROW IS THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I'M DOING GREAT.
OH, WELL, THAT'S GOOD.
OUR TEAM HAS KIND OF BEEN STAGNATING LATELY, SO...
I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YOU.
OKAY...
I'LL DO MY BEST.
OH, YEAH...
THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP IS TOMORROW.

OUR NEW TEAM LEAD- "SIN'S JUS" AS STRICT AS THE OLD ONE
ESPECIAL- WHEN HE'S TALK ING TO ME
CLOD
YEAH

WELL GUESS
"HR" JUS" MEANS HE HAS HIGH HOPES FOR ME

.....

WHA"?
OH, S SORRY, I WAS SPACING OU"
HELLO? ARE YOU EVEN LIS- TENING?

TOMORROW IS THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!
WE MIGHT AS WELL CELEBRATE EARLY...
MY TREAT!!

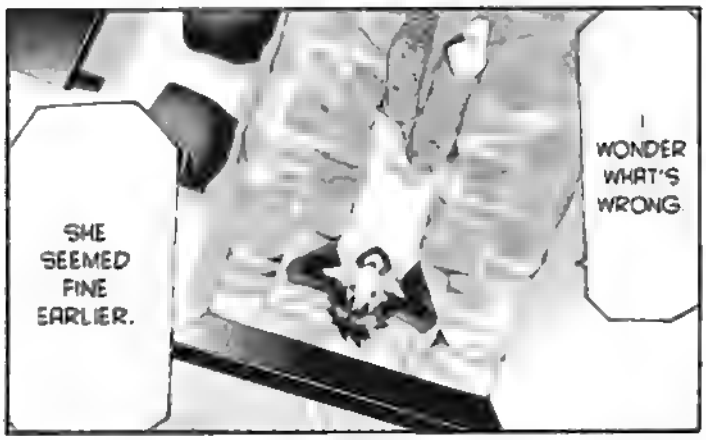
WELL... DO YOU WANT TO GO GRAB A BITE TO EAT?
WHAT...?

SORRY...
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT? HEY, ASAHINA...
FWISH
I WANT TO BE ALONE FOR A BIT.

ASAHINA!

.....


I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG
SHE SEEMED FINE EARLIER.

301
YAMATO AKITSUKI

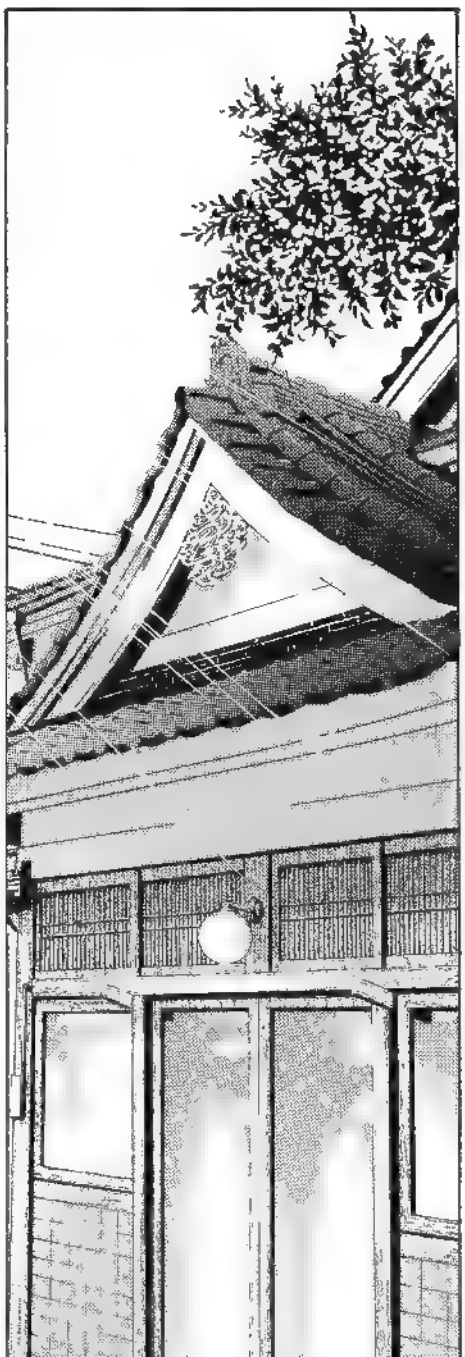
YES..
I'LL DO MY BEST.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHE SAID THOSE EXACT WORDS BACK WHEN WE FIRST MET..
BACK THEN, I THOUGHT SHE WAS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY. ALWAYS SO CALM, COOL AND COLLECTED.

.....

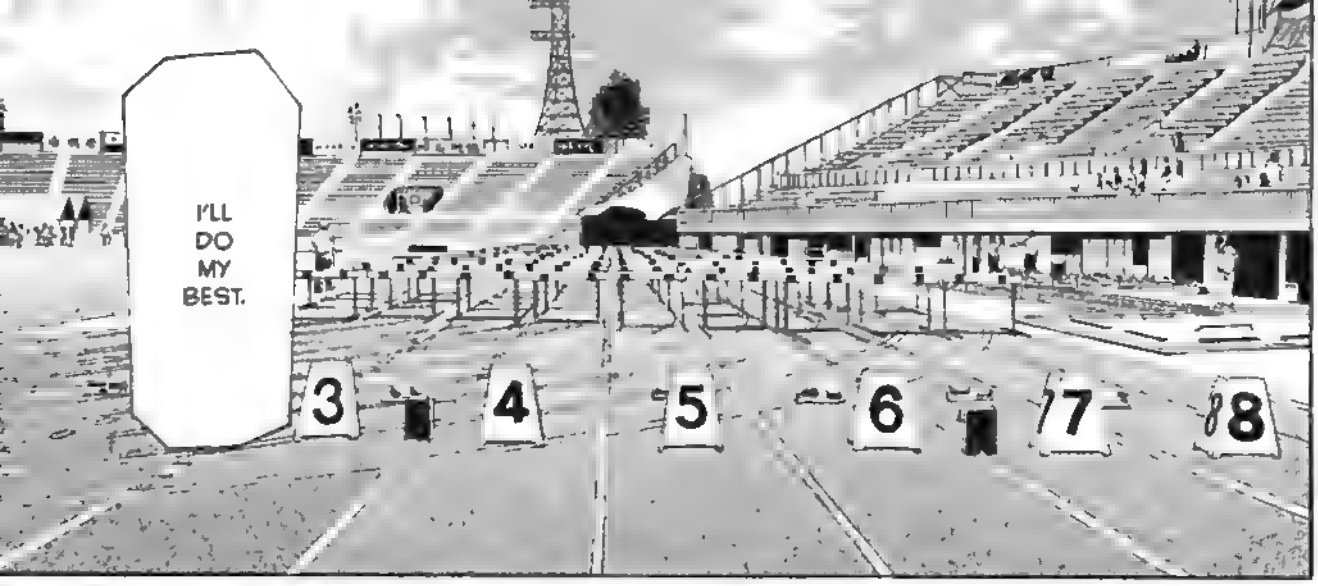
SHE MUST BE UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE.
SHE'S TRY NG SO HARD TO LIVE UP TO EVERYBODY'S EXPECTATIONS...

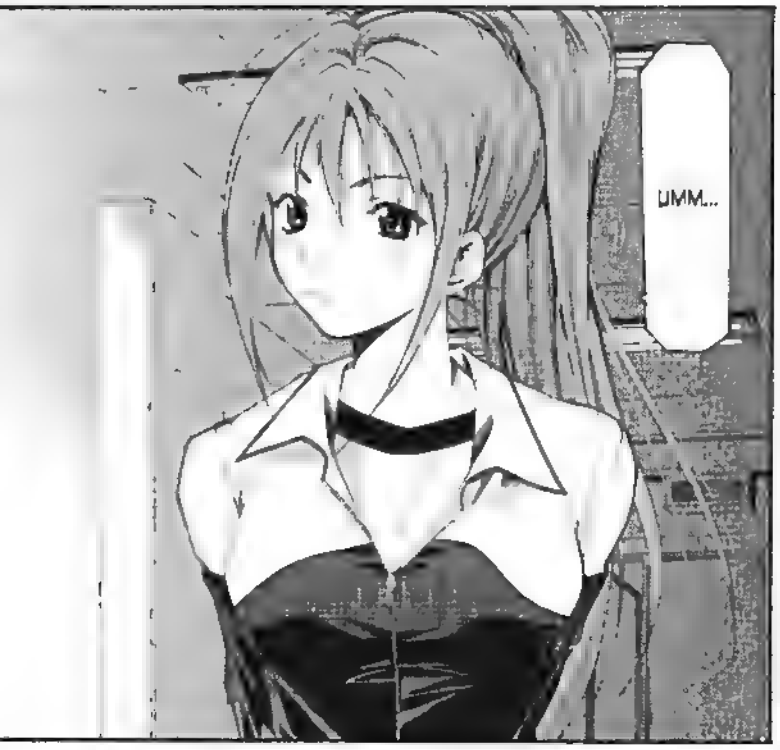
GOOD MORNING, SUZUKA-CHAN.
SLIDE ガラッ
GOOD MORNING.
MORN NG!



NO. HE FINISHED HIS BREAKFAST EARLY AND LEFT A WHILE AGO.
IS YAMATO-KUN STILL ASLEEP?

OH... WHERE DID HE GO?
HE SAID HE WANTED TO GO TO THE COMPETITION GROUNDS EARLY.
I WONDER WHY HE'S SO FIRED UP.
HE'S NOT EVEN GONNA BE COMPET-ING...
UH...
YEAH...
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE SO AMAZING, SUZUKA-CHAN.
YEAH. YOU'VE BEEN NUMBER ONE IN EVERY RACE SINCE THE INTER-HIGH CHAMPIONSHIPS, RIGHT?
WELL, YES, BUT...
AND YOU'LL BE NUMBER ONE THIS TIME, TOO!
WE'LL HAVE TO CELEBRATE!
YEAH...





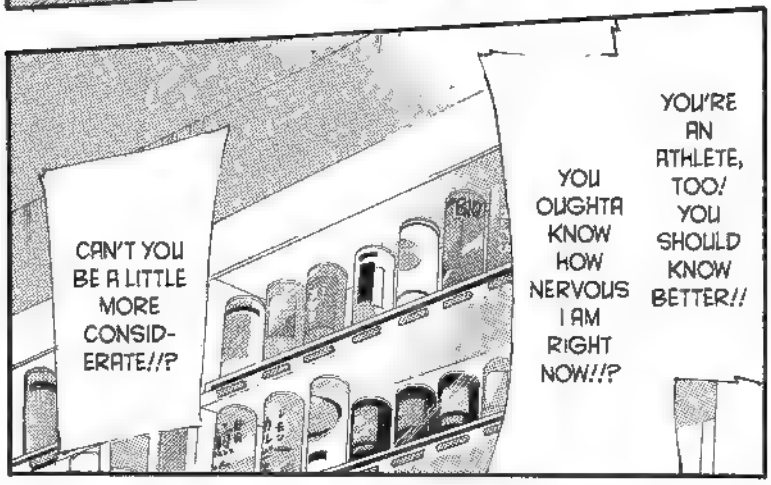
KANTO HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITION

HEY, DON'T BUG HER, HASHIBA.
THWAP
WHAT...
WHY!? I JUST WANT TO WISH HER LUCK...
CAN'T YOU TELL?
SHE'S TRYING TO GET FOCUSED.
ANYTHING YOU SAY RIGHT NOW WILL ONLY DISTRACT HER.
ALL RIGHT.
OKAY? COME ON, LET'S GO!

WHOOSH
BUT I WANTED TO ASK HER ABOUT AKITSUKI...
YAMATO-KUN.
ASAHINA!!
OH, GOOD, THE RACE HASN'T STARTED YET!!
AH...
TOKYO IS SO CRAZY... SERIOUSLY...
OH MY GOD, I WAS STARTING TO PANIC. I TOOK THE WRONG TRAIN!
AH...HERE, ASAHINA...
SORRY, BUT WILL YOU...
GRRR
...!!

!?
FWOOSH
GEEZ!!


CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CONSID-ERATE!!?
YOU OUGHTA KNOW HOW NERVOUS I AM RIGHT NOW!!?
YOU'RE AN ATHLETE, TOO! YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER!!

QUIT BEING SO FREAKIN' ANNOY-ING!!
W-WHAT!?

OF COURSE I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME!
HEY!!

WHAT?
.....

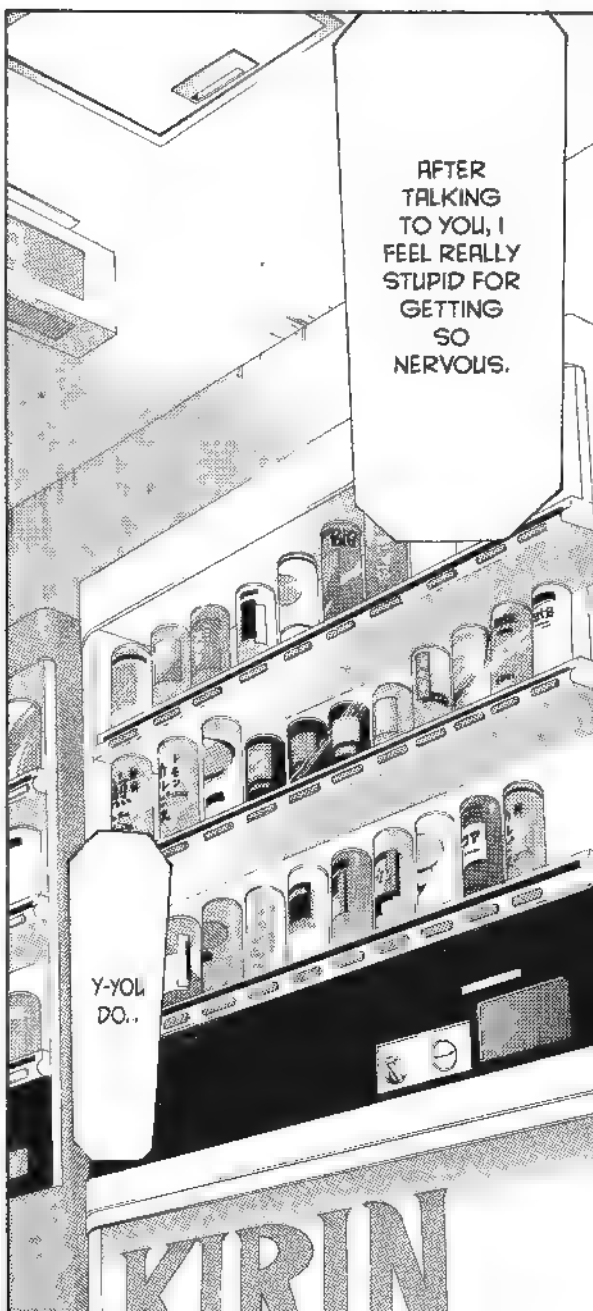
I KNOW THAT IF I TRY TO ENCOURAGE YOU, AND SAY "GOOD LUCK" OR SOMETHING, IT'LL JUST PUT YOU UNDER MORE PRESSURE...
BUT I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU...
THAT'S WHY, THIS MORN-ING I–
...HERE...
WHAT?
A GOOD LUCK CHARM?
I WENT ALL THE WAY TO ASAKUSA TO BUY IT!
IT WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS!
.....

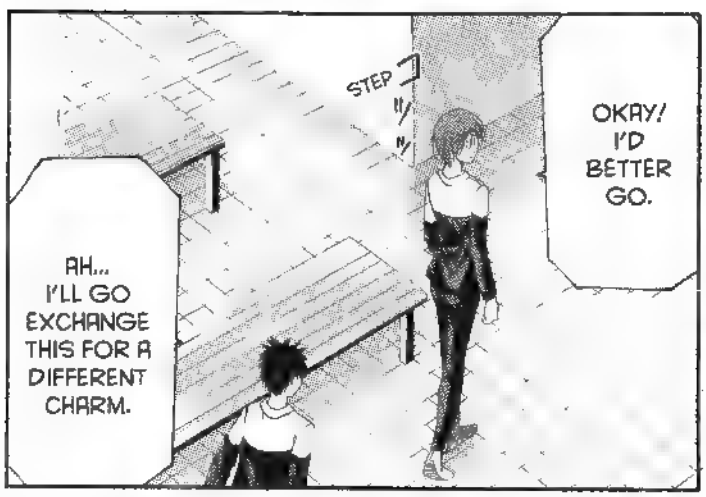
WHAT THE HELL?
ARE YOU STUPID?
.....!?
WHAT?
WHAT THE HELL AM I SUP-POSED TO...
...DO WITH THIS THING?
.....
ク"
ﾘ :GRRIP
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT?
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S KIND OF SILLY, BUT...I WAS JUST TRYING TO—
.....

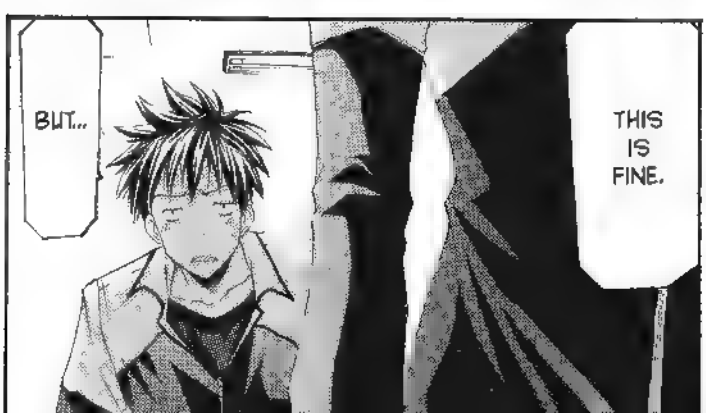
HUH?
OKAY, BUT LOOK AT THIS THING!
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU HELD ON TO THIS DURING THE COMPETITION, MAYBE YOU'D BE ABLE TO RELAX A LITTLE...
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT STUFF, SO...
...A GOOD LUCK CHARM FOR "SAFE CHILDBIRTH"?
SAFE CHILDBIRTH
WHY DID YOU GIVE ME...
S-SAFE CHILD-BIRTH!?
WHAT!?
OH, SHIT!
WAHH! THE PRIEST GAVE ME THE WRONG ONE!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED FOR. I WANTED THE ONE FOR VICTORY.

GEEZ...

WELL...
THAT'S GOOD.

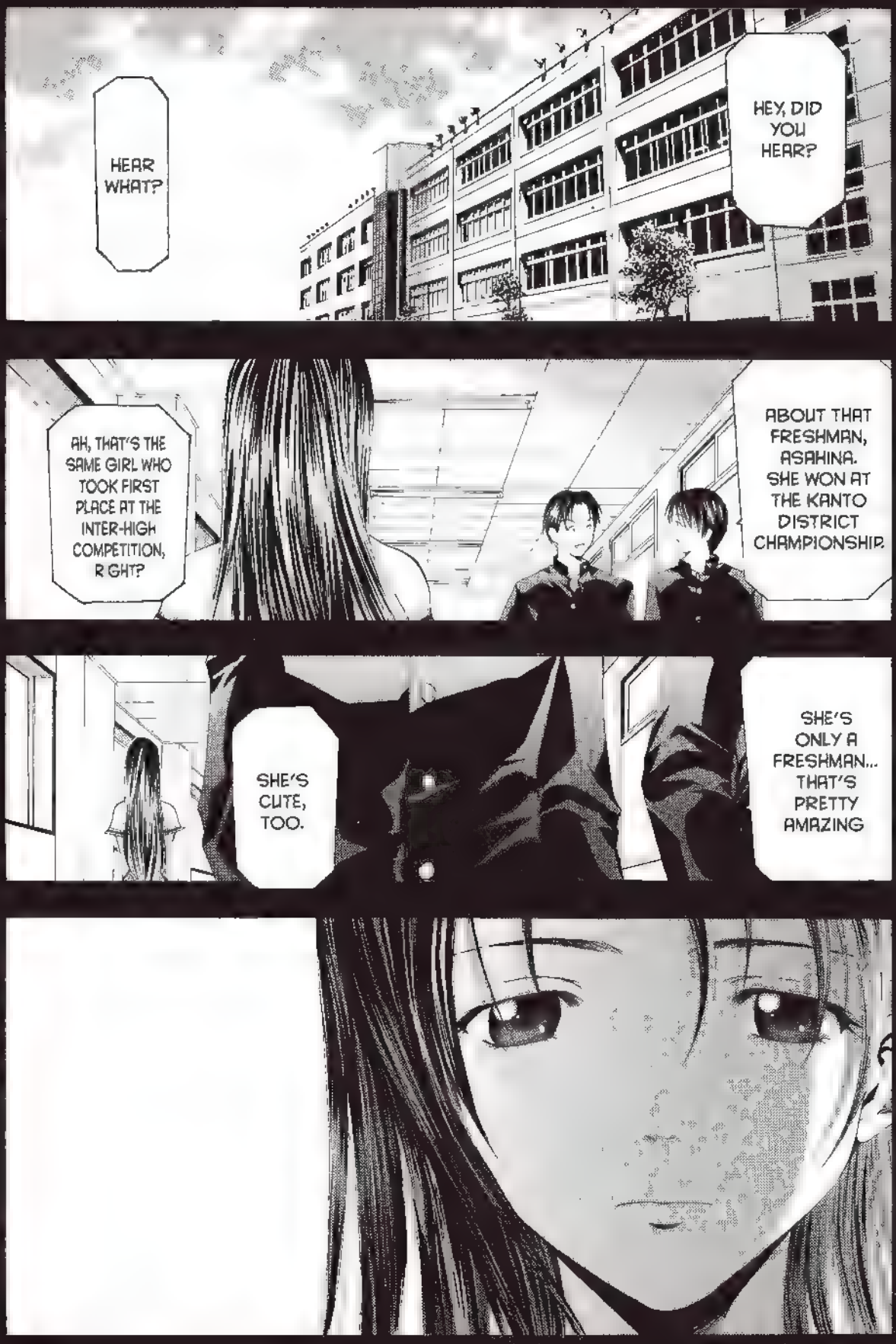

AFTER TALKING TO YOU, I FEEL REALLY STUPID FOR GETTING SO NERVOUS.
Y-YOU DO..
KIRIN


OKAY! I'D BETTER GO.
STEP
AH... I'LL GO EXCHANGE THIS FOR A DIFFERENT CHARM.


THIS IS FINE.
BUT...

I'LL BE ABLE TO DELIVER A HEALTHY BABY WITH THIS CHARM.
SAFE CHILDBIRTH
AH...
WHAT!?

RELAX, STUPID.
I'M JUST KIDDING!
UH...
WAHHH!
GOD!
THANKS FOR THE CHARM.
AH...
SURE, NO PROBLEM.


HEAR WHAT?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
AH, THAT'S THE SAME GIRL WHO TOOK FIRST PLACE AT THE INTER-HIGH COMPETITION, R GHT?
ABOUT THAT FRESHMAN, ASAHINA. SHE WON AT THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP.
SHE'S CUTE, TOO.
SHE'S ONLY A FRESHMAN... THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING

SUZUKA

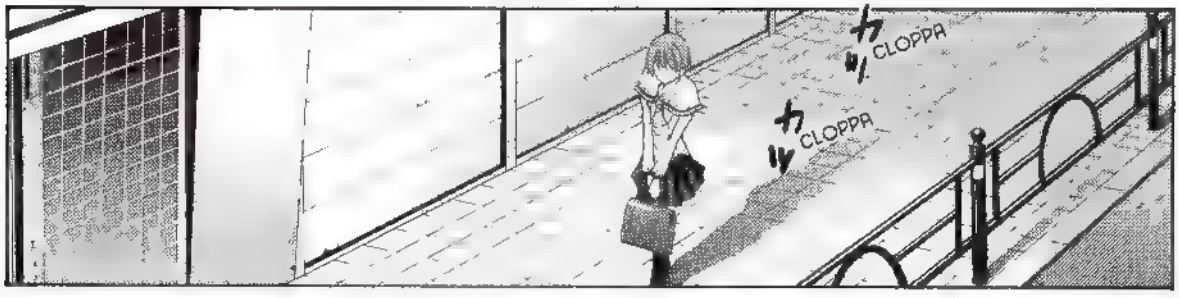
#76 Embarking

WHAT!?
YOU'RE QUIT-TING!?
I-I'M SO SORRY...
I KNOW THIS IS BAD TIMING, BUT...
COME ON, GUYS! BE REASONABLE. I ASKED HER TO STAY UNTIL THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP WAS OVER AND SHE STUCK WITH IT TO THE END.
WE SHOULD ALL SEND HER OFF WITH OUR THANKS AND SUPPORT.
W-WHY!!?
WAHH!!
PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO RECONSIDER!!

HONOKA-CHAN...
.....
I CAN'T GO ON...
SLUMP
OH, MAN! SHE WAS THE ONLY THING THAT MADE ME LOOK FORWARD TO PRACTICE...
SO SAKURAI-SAN IS QUITTING...
WHAT?
UH... NOTHING!
WELL... I CAN SEE WHY...
HEY, AKITSUKI!! DID YOU SAY SOMETHING MEAN TO HER AGAIN!?
N-NO I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!!
THEN WHY IS SHE QUITTING!!?

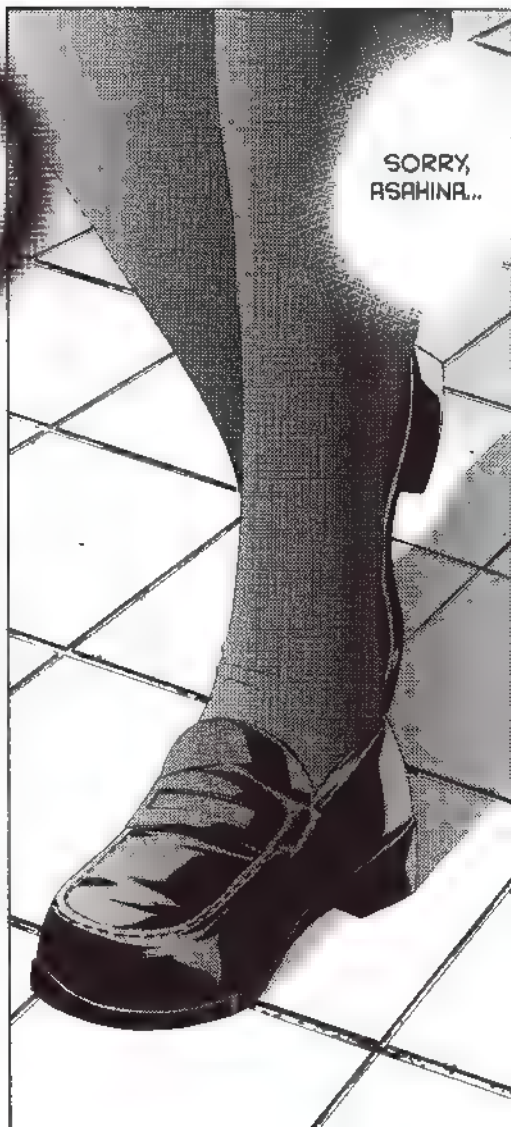
WHY?
I GUESS...
...SHE MUST HAVE FIGURED OUT THAT SUZUKA AND I ARE TOGETHER.
COME ON, GUYS. PULL YOUR-SELVES TOGETHER. IT'S TIME TO START PRACTICE.
HEY, GET UP, KOBA-YAKAWA!
OKAY...

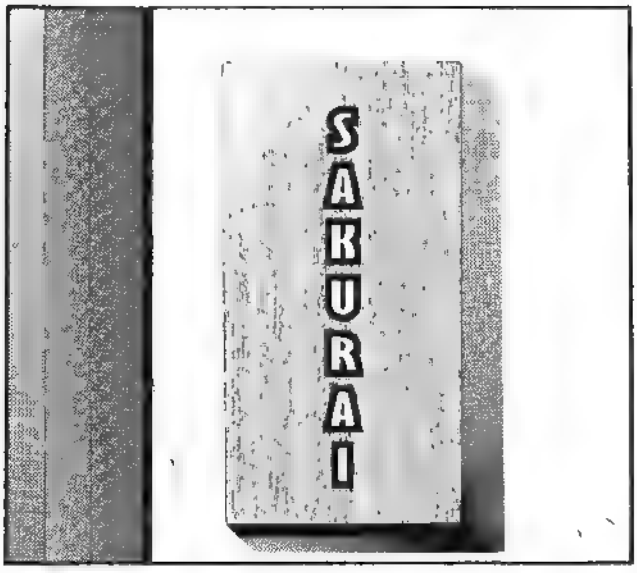
JAZZ Bar


CLOPPA
CLOPPA

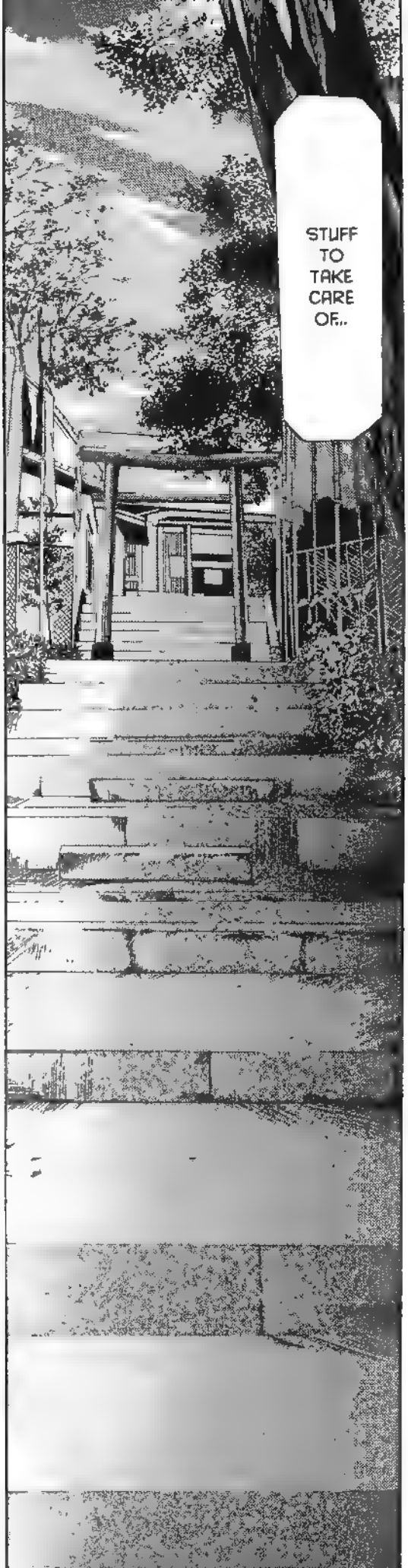
I'VE GOT SOME STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF TODAY.
YOU CAN GO ON HOME WITHOUT ME...

.....


SORRY, ASAHINA...


SAKURAI

SHE JOINED THE TEAM BECAUSE OF ME, AND NOW SHE'S LEAVING BECAUSE OF ME.
I DEFINITELY OWE HER AN APOLOGY.


STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF..

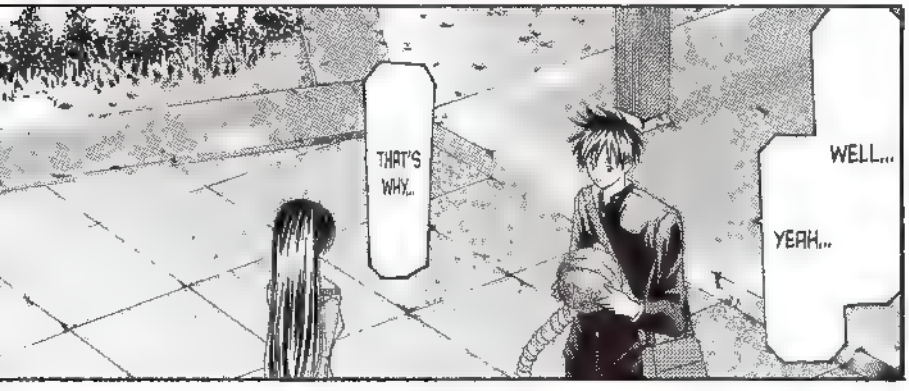
TSSSWAAAA
WE ALREADY BROKE UP, SO...
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T EVEN BRING THIS KIND OF STUFF UP ANYMORE.
AH...
BUT...
MAYBE I'M JUST BEING ARROGANT.
PLINK
I GUESS...
SWLIP
I'LL JUST VISIT THE SHRINE AND GO HOME.
DONG
DING

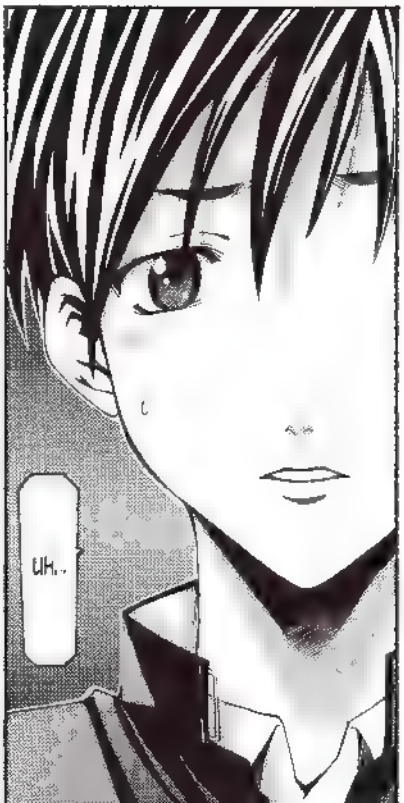
AH...?
TCHWICK
!!
CRASH
OH, SHIT!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'M GONNA BE CURSED WITH BAD LUCK!
!?
SHOCK
AH!! YOU BROKE THE SHRINE BELL!!

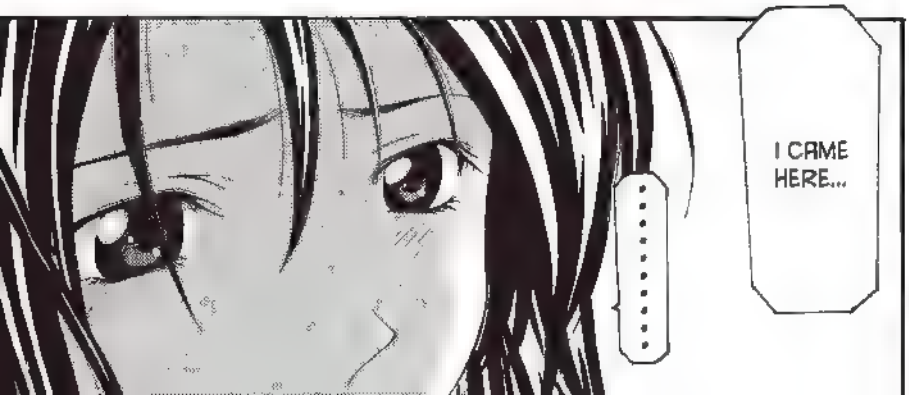
HEH HEH.
H-HONOKA-CHAN.
S-SORRY. I'LL FIX IT!!
IT'S OKAY...IT WAS ALREADY BROKEN.
UH...
BUT...

I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU.
WHAT...?

YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ASAKINA-SAN NOW, RIGHT?

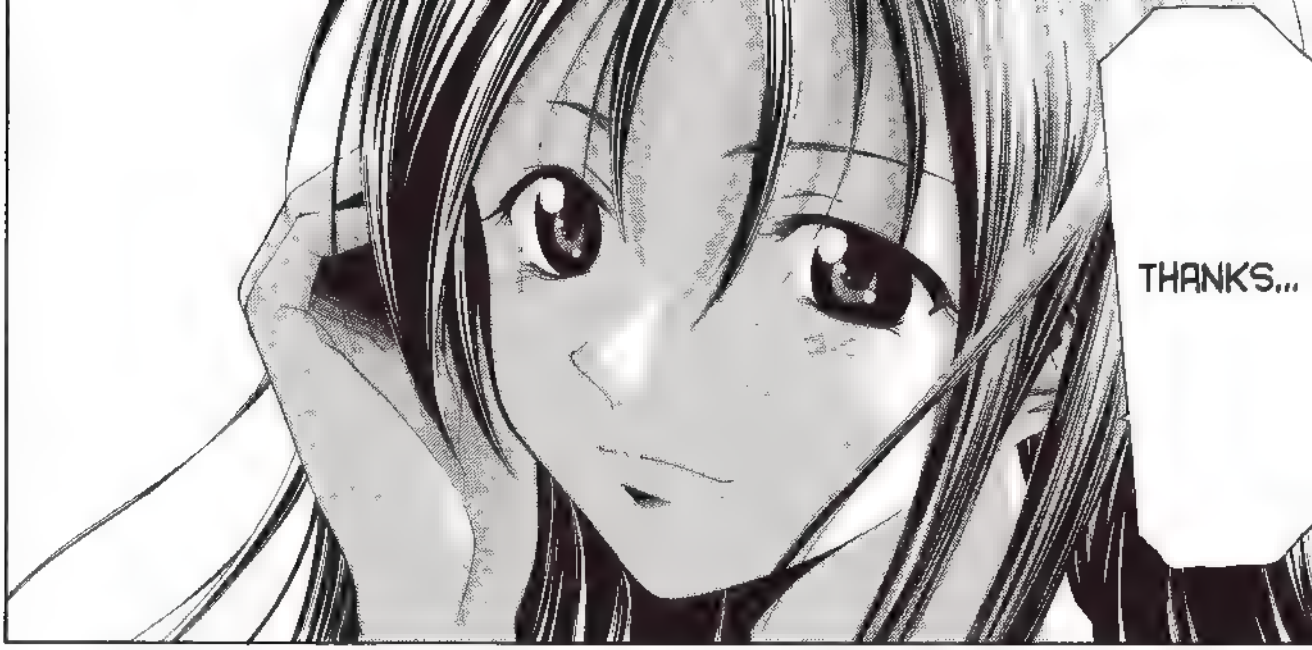

WELL...
YEAH...
THAT'S WHY...

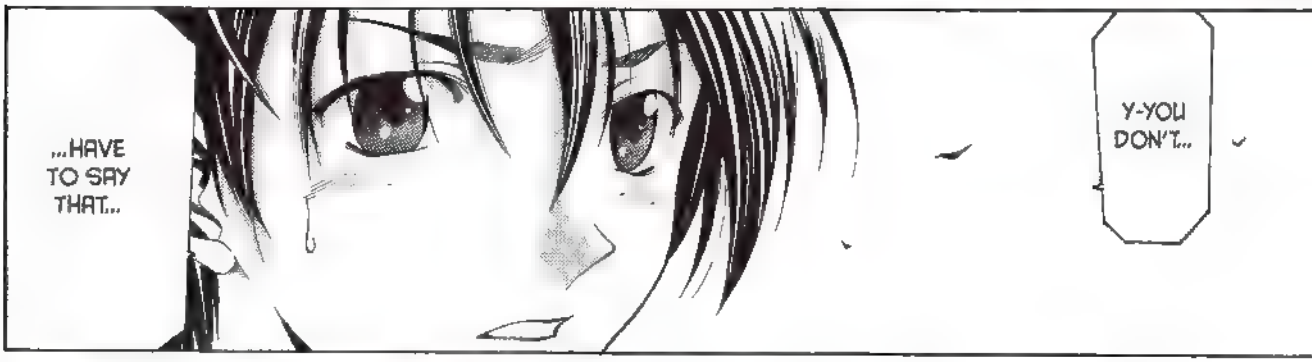

UH..


I CAME HERE...
.....

清国御
WHAT...?
WELL...
I JOINED THE SAME MODELING AGENCY THAT REPRESENTS NANA-CHAN.
AND THAT'S WHY...
MY PICTURE WAS IN A MAGAZINE, AND I GUESS SOME PEOPLE LIKED IT, SO...
I HAD TO QUIT BEING MANAGER!
I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY ON IF I COULDN'T GIVE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.
THEY ASKED ME IF I WOULD GIVE MODELING A TRY...

YEAH... THAT'S WHY...
O-OKAY... SO THAT'S WHY...
OH...
M-ME?
AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK, AKITSUKI KUN...
WELL, AFTER I MET YOU, AKITSUKI KUN..
WE REALLY WENT THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER...
...AND I REALIZED THERE WERE SOME PARTS OF MYSELF THAT I NEEDED TO CHANGE


THANKS...


Y-YOU DON'T...
...HAVE TO SAY THAT...

IT WAS LAME OF ME TO THINK THAT I WAS THE ONLY REASON SHE WAS QUITTING.

SO... HONOKA-CHAN QUIT THE TRACK TEAM FOR HER OWN REASONS.
SO THAT SHE COULD GO AFTER HER NEW GOAL.

GOOD LUCK.
'M...BE-HIND YOU ALL THE WAY...
THANKS...

WELL, I'M GOING TO ...
...MISS YOU, BUT...
I'LL STILL BE GOING TO SCHOOL...
SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER...
.....
O-OH, OKAY...
DONG
AH, I'D BETTER...
...?
DON'T WORRY...I WON'T TELL ANYONE.

.....
OKAY.
IT'LL BE...
...OUR LITTLE SECRET, OKAY?
...!
CLOPPA カーン
CLOPPA カーン
CLOPPA カーン
HM...?

AH...WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
WHAT!?
WHAT...!?
N-NOTH-NG...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ASAHINA?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT!?
N-NO!!
IT'S OKAY.
I'LL ALWAYS COME BACK TO YOU...
WHAT...?
DON'T WORRY..

AH
HEY!
I-I TOLD YOU I WASN'T WAITING FOR YOU!!
W-WAIT I WANNA CHANGE!
COME ON LET'S GO DOWN STAIRS IT'S DINNER TIME
OH YAMATO KUN WE'RE GONNA HAVE A BEEF BARBE CUE TO NIGHT
TO CE- EBRATE MY VIC- TORY IN THE COMPE TITION
WHAT!? SERIOUSLY!? A- RIGHT AWESOME JOB AS- HIKU!
WHAT'S THAT SUP POSED TO MEAN?

#77 First Name Basis
SUZUKA

WHAT'D YOU SAY?
WHAT?

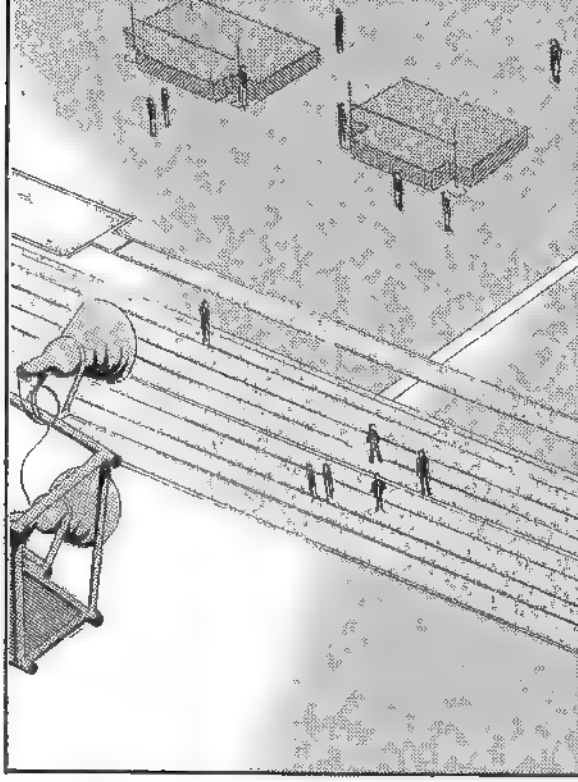
YOU AND SUZUKA-CHAN ARE GOING OUT.
I SAID, HASHIBA AND I BOTH KNOW IT...

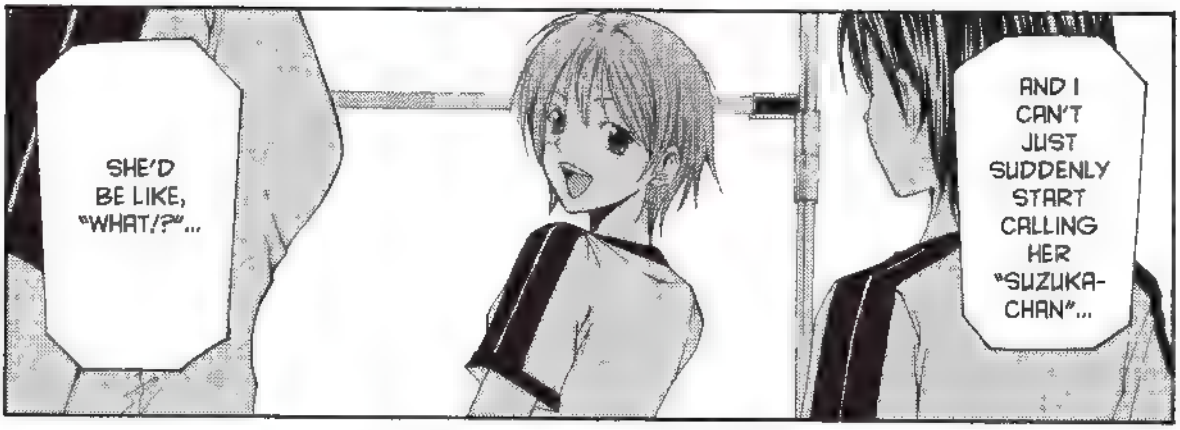
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY-THING TO US.
IF YOU GUYS WANNA GO OUT IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS ANYWAY.
UH... REAL..Y?

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW!? WHAT ARE YOU...
...A SPY OR SOME-THING!?
DUDE, YOU GUYS GO AROUND HOLDING HANDS AT THE STATION AND YOU ACTUALLY THINK NO ONE'S GONNA FIND OUT?

WELL, EVEN AS FRIENDS YOU GUYS WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING.
IT SEEMS KIND OF WEIRD TO ME, TOO.
WELL... I DON'T KNOW... BUT..
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE ANYTHING'S CHANGED.
WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE WE'RE A COUPLE.
AH...MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I NEVER CALL HER BY HER FIRST NAME!
FWUP
I NEVER CALL HER "SUZUKA."
WELL, IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S THE REASON, WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?
ALL RIGHT!
I DON'T KNOW...
SLURP
I DON'T SEE WHY THAT WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

I STILL FEEL WEIRD ABOUT CALLING HER BY HER FIRST NAME... WITHOUT SAYING "SAN" OR SOMETHING.
BUT EVEN THOUGH WE'RE GOING OUT NOW...

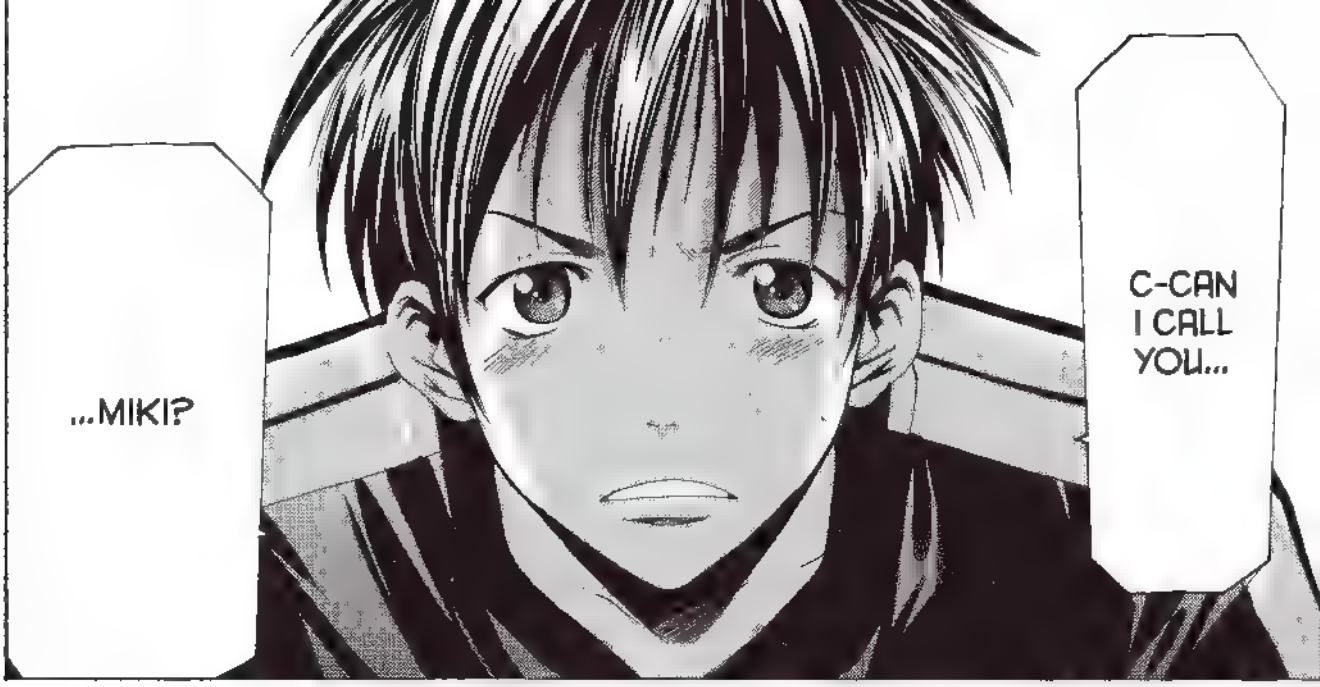


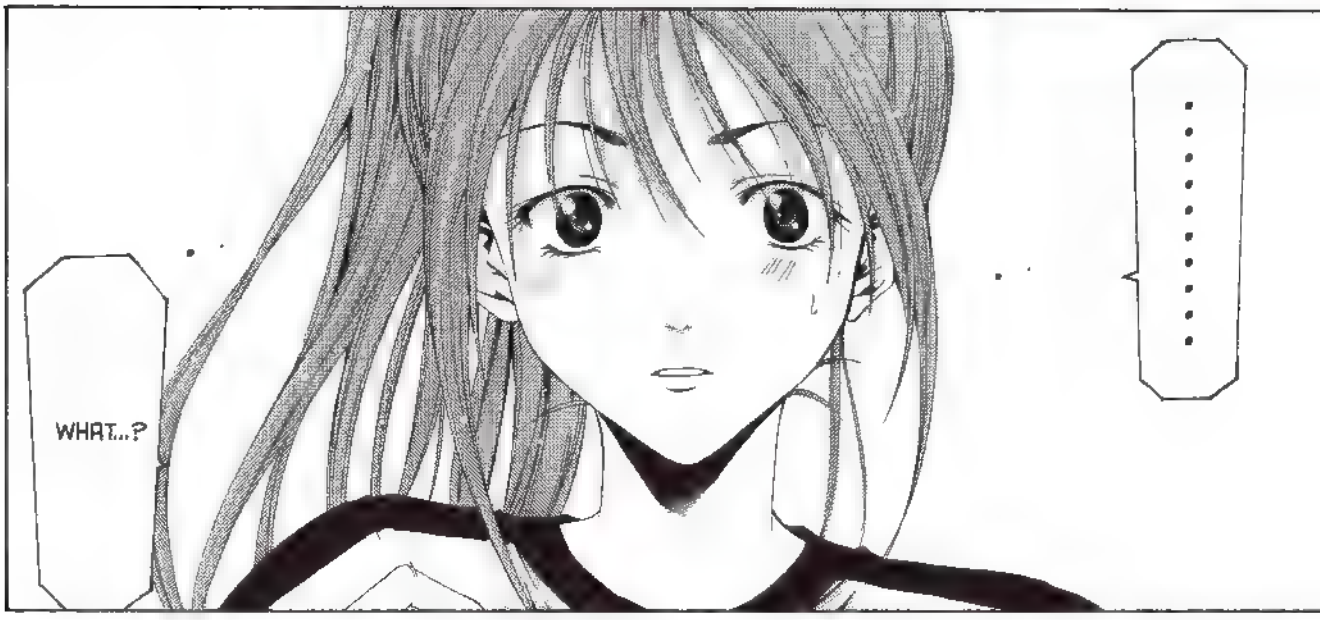

SHE'D BE LIKE, "WHAT/?"...
AND I CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY START CALLING HER "SUZUKA-CHAN"...

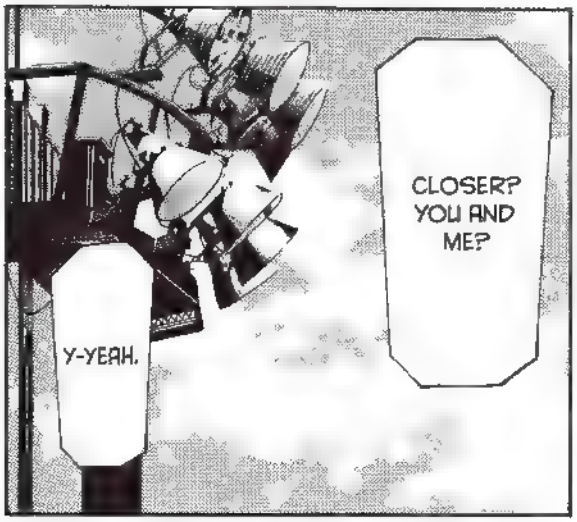
.....
AH...

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
AH... THE ONLY GIRL I'VE EVER CALLED BY HER FIRST NAME WAS MY SISTER.
I WISH I COULD PRACTICE FIRST ON SOMEONE ELSE...

AHHHH!
HASHIBA!!
WHOOSH
AH...UM... CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING...
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU BEING SO FORMAL ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WELL...
UH...I...
WHAT IS IT? SPIT IT OUT.


C-CAN I CALL YOU...
...MIKI?


.....
WHAT...?


CLOSER? YOU AND ME?
Y-YEAH.

WELL... IT JUST... IT MAKES US SOUND LIKE WERE CLOSER...
W-WHY!? WHY? WHY!?

I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT ME TO...
...SUDDENLY START USING YOUR FIRST NAME LIKE THAT, HUH...?
WHAT!?
WHAT? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT!?
N-NO...
THUMP
THUMP
I MEAN... I DON'T MIND... BUT...

UM... UH... YEAH..
AH...I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT!
WELL... I'M GOING OUT WITH ASAHINA NOW...

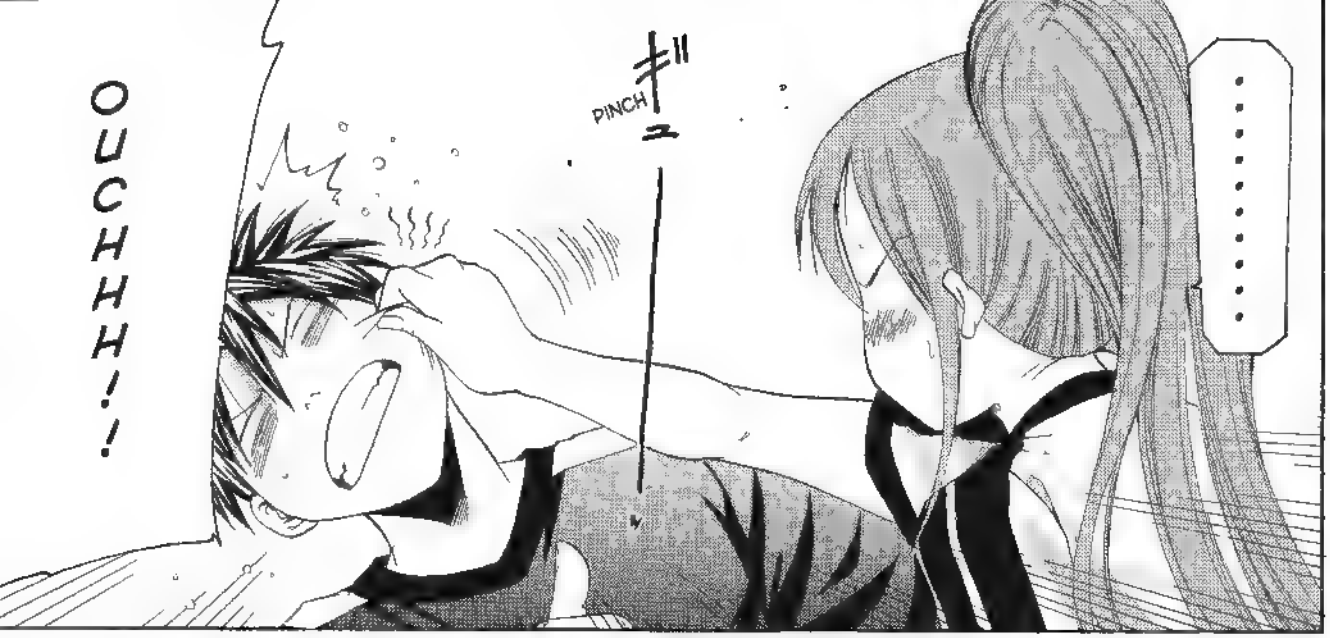
OKAY! COOL... IT SHOULD BE FINE THEN!!
FWIP
WHAT?

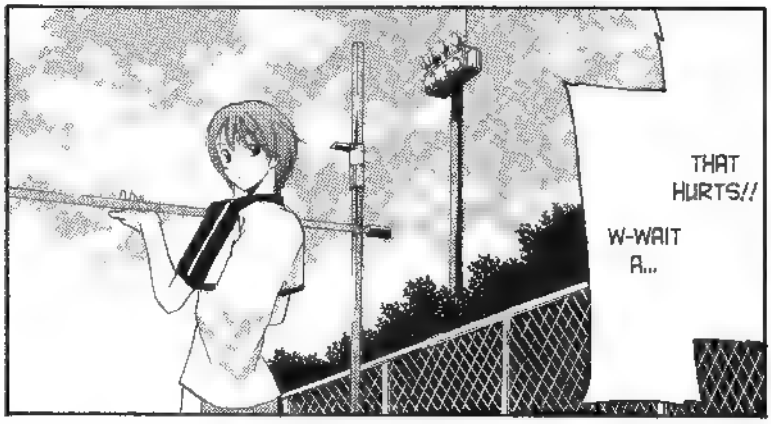
I'M NOT REALLY USED TO IT...
SINCE WE'RE A COUPLE NOW, I WANT TO CALL HER BY HER FIRST NAME, BUT...

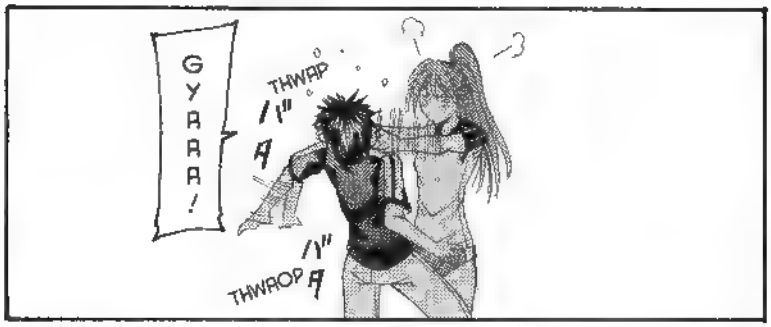
GRRR

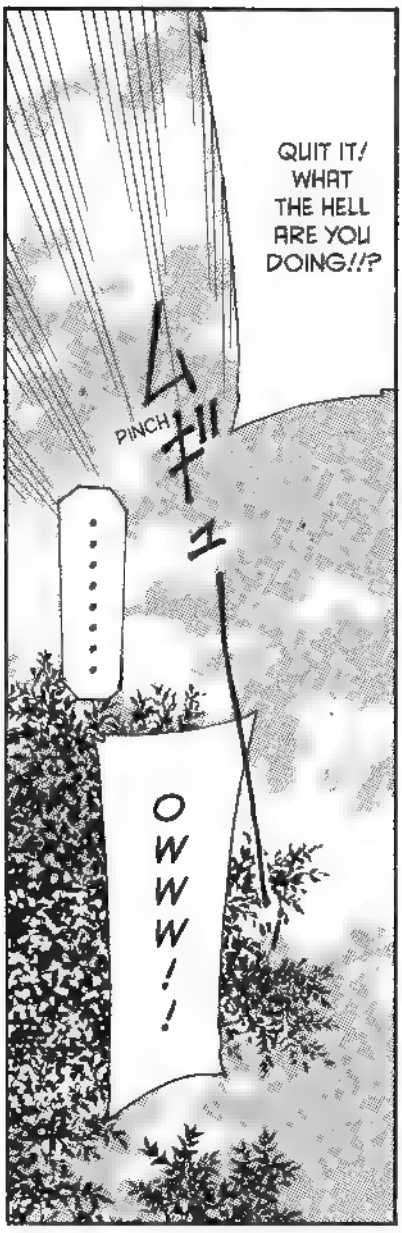
FWICK
BUT YOU SAID IT SOUNDS OKAY!
SO, I FEEL PRETTY CONFIDENT NOW!!

WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
HUH?

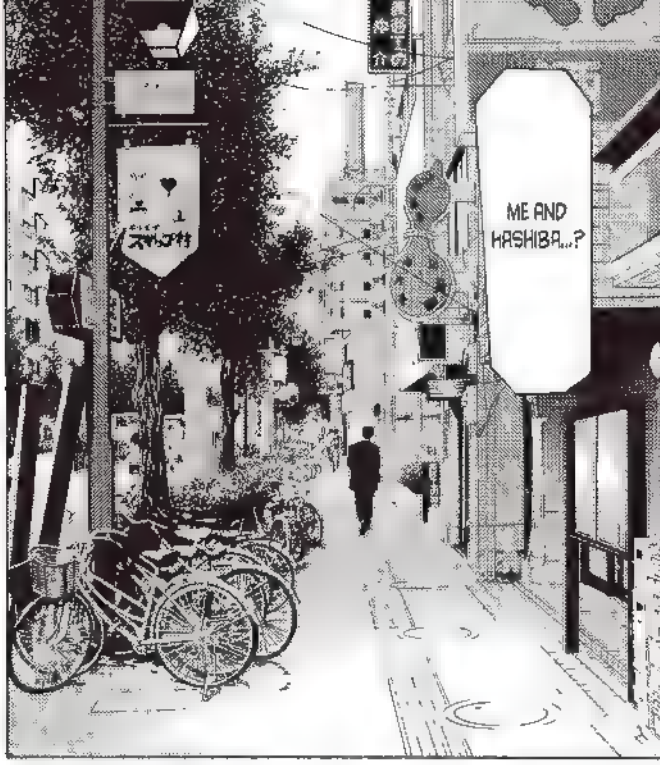

OUCHHH!!
PINCH
.....


THAT HURTS//
W-WAIT A...


GYAAA!
THWAP
THWAOP


QUIT IT/ WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!?
PINCH
.....
OWWW!!

UH...
YEAH...
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT YOU GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT...


ME AND HASHIBA...?

I WAS TELLING HER ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING OUT.
WELL... I...

YEAH, BUT I GUESS SHE'D ALREADY HEARD ABOUT IT FROM YASUNOBU.
HE TOLD ME HE SAW US HOLDING HANDS AT THE TRAIN STATION...

OH... YOU TOLD MIKI.

UH...
Y-YEAH.
OH.

NOT REALLY IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DOING SOMETHING BAD
PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT US GOING OUT?
DOES THAT BUG YOU?

I'M TOO EMBARRESED TO ASK HER IF I CAN CALL HER SUZUKA...
NOTH ING

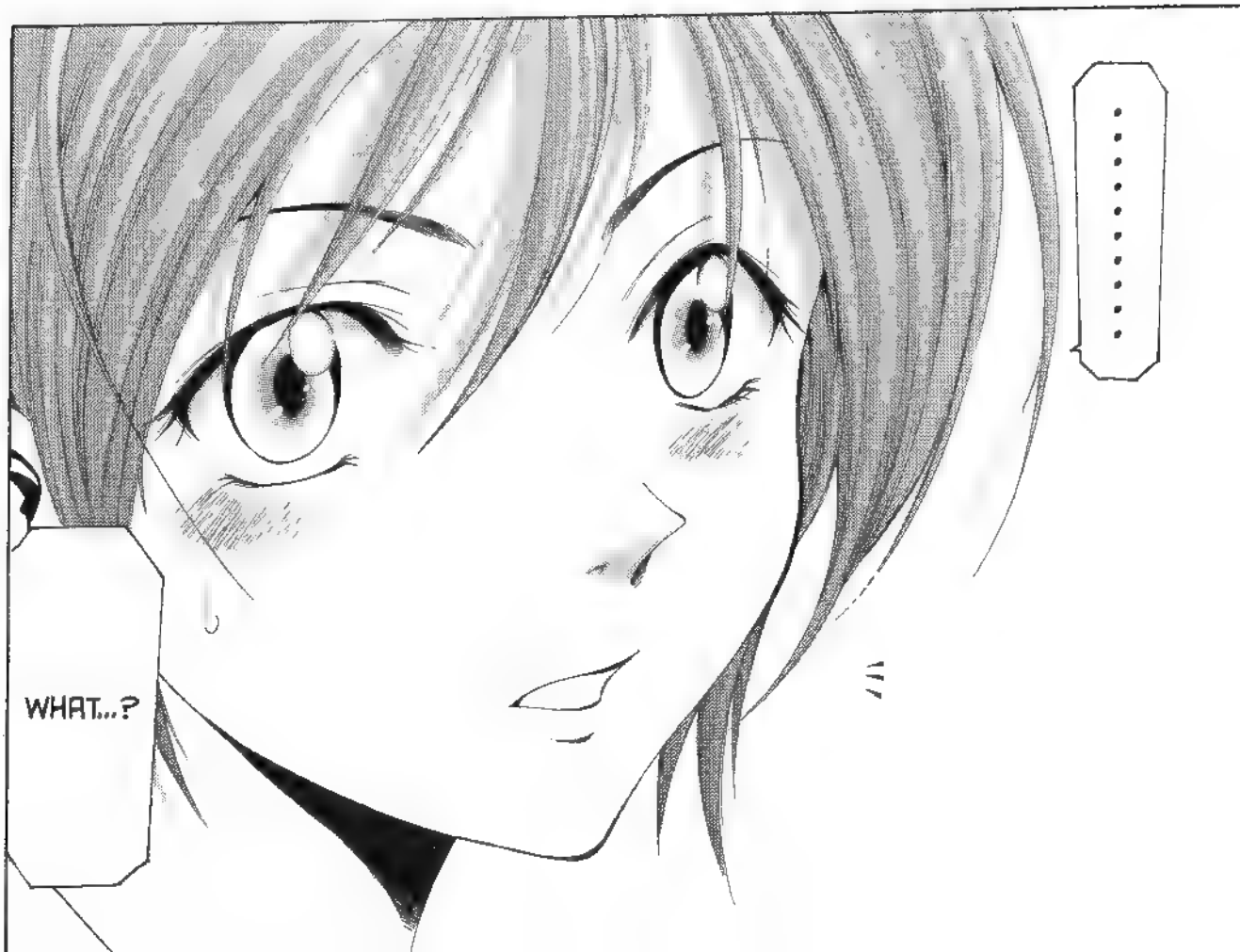
SU...
Y-YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT, SU- SU...

.....?
WHAT IS IT?

AH YOU WERE REALLY AMAZING THE OTHER DAY...
COME ON, BE A MAN. IT'S NO BIG DEAL, JUST SAY IT.
SO, WHAT'S UP...?
WHY'D YOU BRING THAT UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...IN THE KANTO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP NOT ONLY DID YOU WIN, YOU EVEN SET A NEW RECORD.... 175 CM....AND YOU'RE ONLY A FRESHMEN.
WITH THAT RECORD, YOU COULD'VE WON THIS YEAR'S INTER-HIGH, TOO!
NO REASON... I'M JUST HAPPY FOR YOU!
I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED, SU...SU...
UH... T-THANKS.

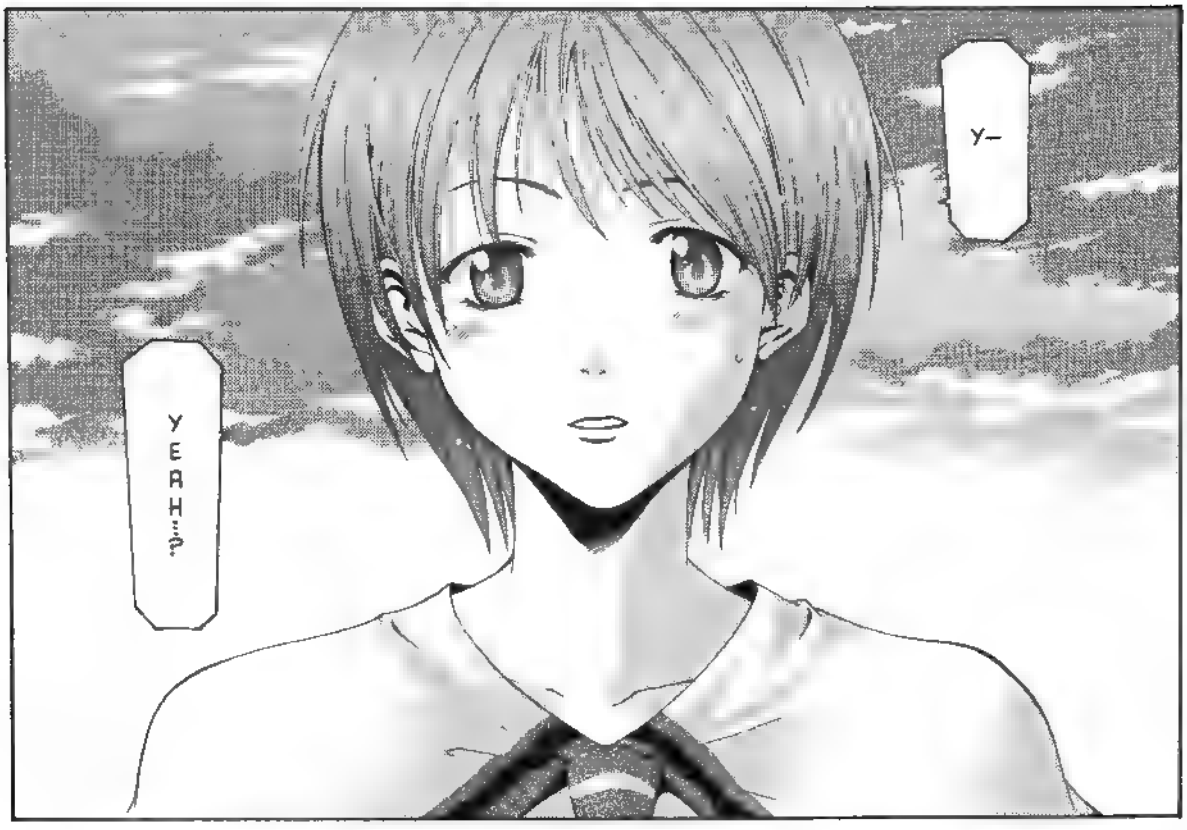
IS THAT YOUR NEW CATCH-PHRASE OR SOME-THING?
TCH, SOME "CATCH PHRASE" THAT WOULD BE...
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING "SU..."?
.....?
YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD, YAMATO-KUN...
WHAT IS IT, THEN?
I WAS JUST WONDER-ING...
WELL.
UH...
YEAH...?
GLOP
GLOP
WEIRD?
YEAH... VERY.

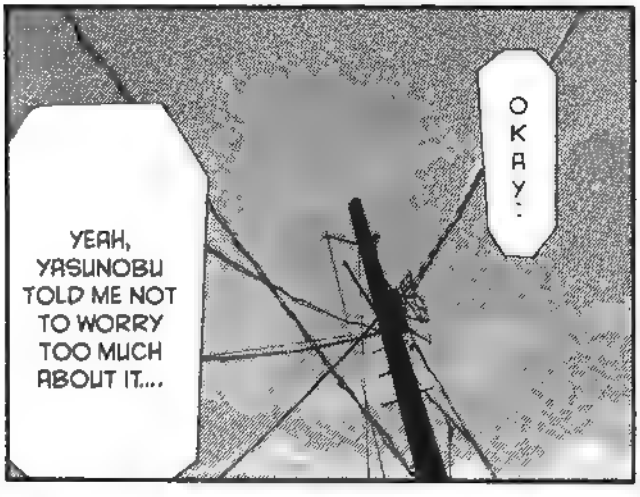
W-WHAT WE'RE HAVING FOR DINNER TONIGHT...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? SU... SUZUKA...?


.....
WHAT...?

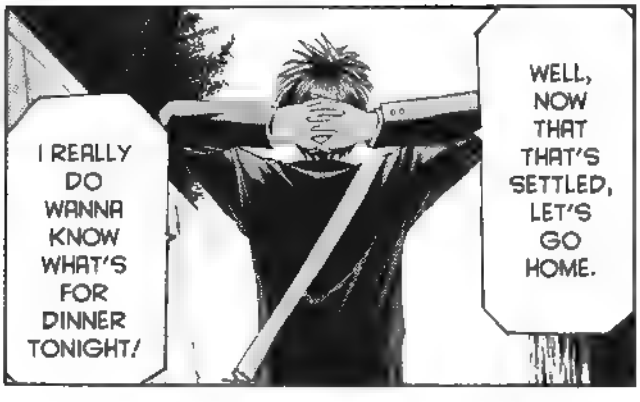
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA
I-I DON'T KNOW...
FRIED CHICKEN, MAYBE?
Y-YOU THINK SO?
UH... YOU REALLY LIKE FRIED CHICKEN, DON'T YOU... SU... SUZUKA.
HA... HAHA...
UMM...
NOT REALLY...
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
.....

!?
FWISH
NOOOOOO!!
W-WHAT IS IT!?
I CAN'T! I JUST CAN'T DO IT!!
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
I-I TRIED TO CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME BUT...
I JUST GOT SO EMBARRASSED...I FELT LIKE I WAS GONNA DIE!


Y—
YEAH!?

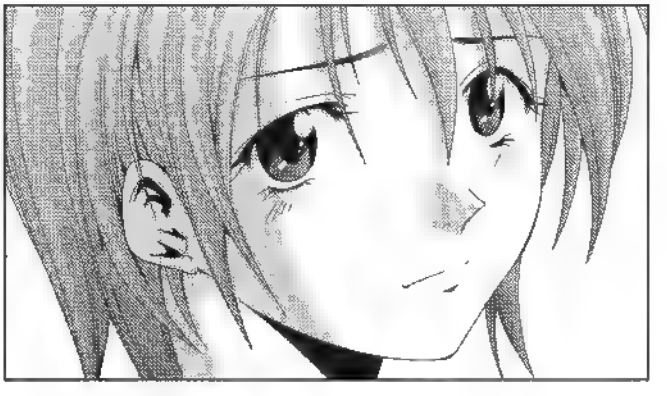

OKAY.
YEAH, YASUNOBU TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT....

YEAH... SORRY. I'M JUST GONNA KEEP CALLING YOU "ASAHINA" FOR NOW.
IT JUST SOUNDS RIGHT...


WELL, NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, LET'S GO HOME.
I REALLY DO WANNA KNOW WHAT'S FOR DINNER TONIGHT!

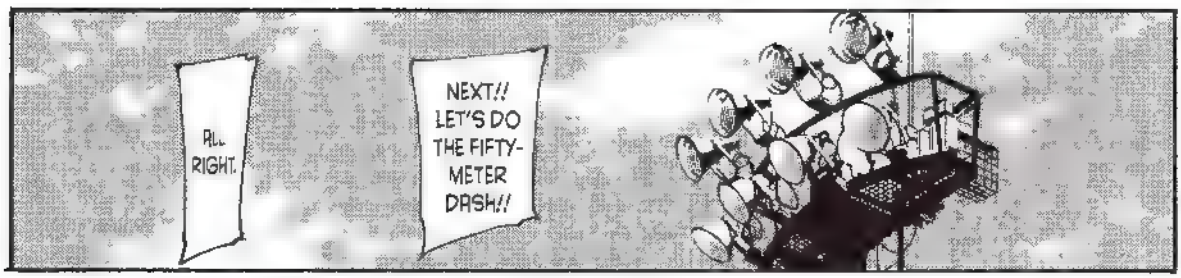
.....
BUT I LIKED IT WHEN YOU CALLED ME "SUZUKA"...
HUH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?
NOTH-NG!
I WAS JUST SAYING... I HOPE WE'RE HAVING FRIED CHICKEN!

#78 Yokohama
SUZUKA



S-SHUT UP!! SHUT UP, SHUT UP!!
カ" CLANK タ"
WHAT!? YOU GUYS HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!?
WE STILL HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
S-SHUT UP.
DUDE, I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY GONE PRETTY FAR WITH HER...
WE.L, GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...SINCE YOU GUYS PRETTY MUCH DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING EVERY DAY..
I JUST HAVEN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT THE TIMING YET, YOU KNOW...
I MEAN, THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS HAS FINALLY FALLEN FOR YOU, SO...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
.....

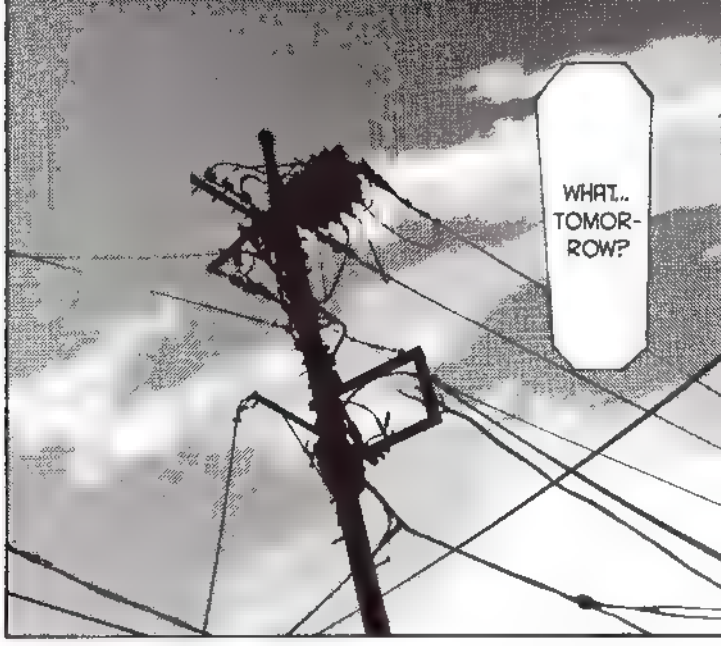
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER OUT SOMEWHERE?
YEAH... COME TO THINK OF IT... WE HAVEN'T...
YOU GUYS HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE TOGETHER SINCE YOU STARTED GOING OUT, HAVE YOU?
IF ALL GOES WELL...
YOU MIGHT AT LEAST BE ABLE TO GET A KISS IN...
A-A KI...
...KISS...

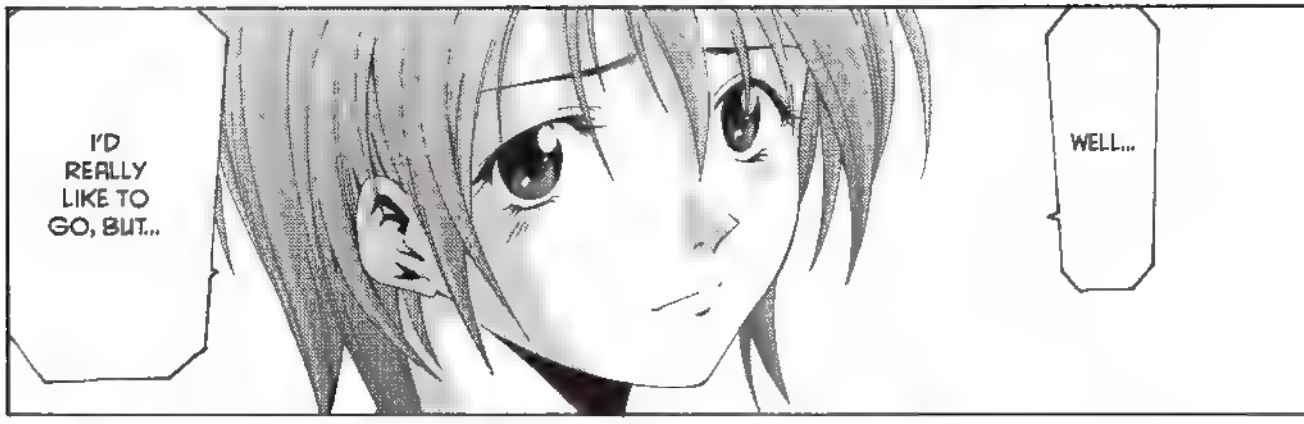

ALL RIGHT.
NEXT!! LET'S DO THE FIFTY-METER DASH!!

NEXT!!
BLEEP
WELL... I GUESS WE'VE KIND OF KISSED BEFORE...
BUT THAT TIME IT JUST SORT OF HAP-PENED...
ACTUALLY...
I PRACTI-CALLY FORCED MYSELF ON HER.
DOES THAT COUNT AS ASSAULT?

I WONDER WHAT ASAHINA THINKS...
WE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT.
MAYBE SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO...
.....
HEY, AKITSUKI, QUIT STAND-ING AROUND!! YOU'RE UP NEXT!!
AH. OKAY.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER OUT SOMEWHERE?
WELL, WHAT-EVER...
WHOOSH
I MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE... IF I BRING IT UP NOW, IT'LL PROBABLY JUST LEAD TO A FIGHT.
YOU MIGHT AT LEAST BE ABLE TO GET A KISS IN.
.....

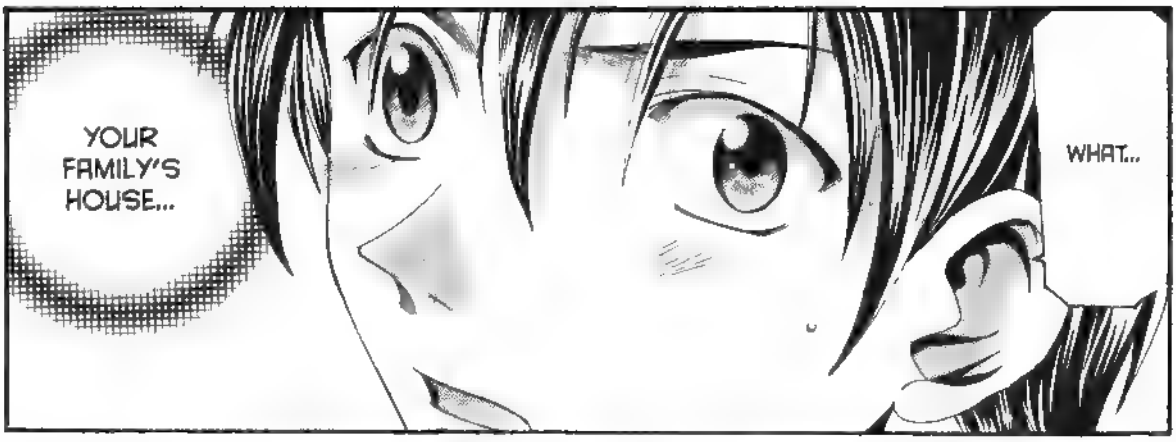
WHY DON'T WE GO SOME-WHERE?
Y-YEAH. WE DON'T HAVE PRACTICE, SO...

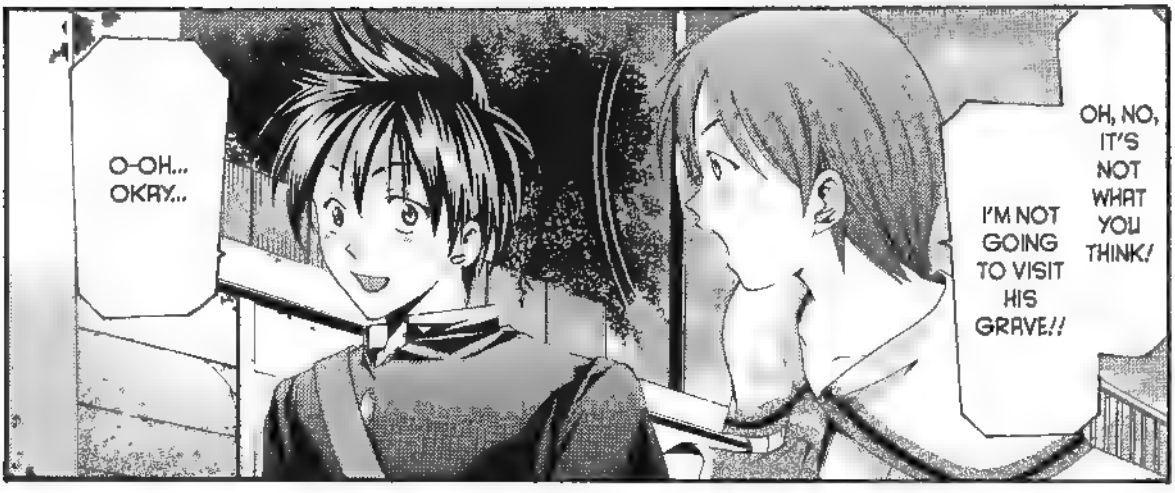

WHAT.. TOMOR-ROW?


I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO, BUT...
WELL...

I WANT TO GO BUT...
I'VE GOT SOME STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF AT MY FAMILY'S PLACE OUT IN YOKOHAMA TOMOR-ROW...

-I'M SORRY.
REALLY!? COME ON, THEN...


YOUR FAMILY'S HOUSE...
WHAT...

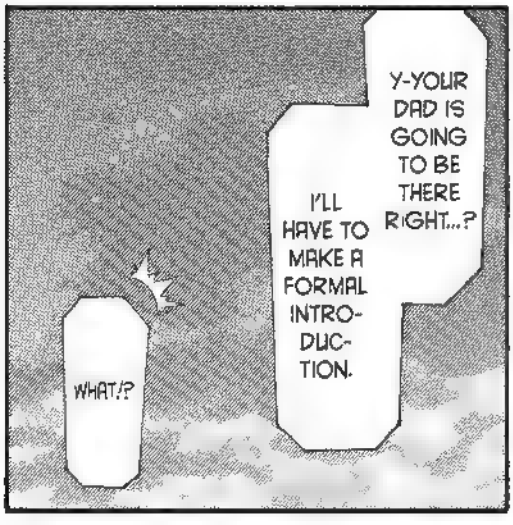

O-OH... OKAY...
I'M NOT GOING TO VISIT HIS GRAVE!!
OH, NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

SORRY FOR BRING-ING IT UP SO SUD-DENLY...
O-OKAY... WELL THEN, GUESS WE CAN'T GO ANY-WHERE.....

I JUST...
...NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME STUFF AT HOME...

CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA

WELL... DO YOU WANNA COME WITH ME?
...TO MY FAMILY'S HOUSE?
WHAT?


Y-YOUR DAD IS GOING TO BE THERE RIGHT...?
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A FORMAL INTRO-DUC-TION.
WHAT!?

W-WELL, I GUESS NOT, BUT...
I MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO, DO YOU, YAMATO-KUN?

D-DON'T BE AN IDIOT. YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT!!
MY ERRAND WON'T TAKE LONG, SO YOU CAN JUST WAIT OUTSIDE.
PHEW
OH... WELL... THAT'S SOUNDS ALL RIGHT...
OH NO...
'LL GO...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO COME, THAT'S OKAY. BUT, I REALLY WON'T BE LONG AT ALL.
HUH...?
!!
HEY... YOU KNOW WHAT!?
WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED W TH YOUR ERRAND, WHY DON'T WE HANG OUT IN YO-KOHAMA FOR A WHILE!?
W-WELL...OKAY, SURE...

THE FOL-LOWING DAY.
CLICK
CLACK
ガタン
JR
AH... AYANO-SAN, ASAHINA AND I ARE GONNA HAVE DINNER OUT TONIGHT.
OH, ALRIGHT.
YOU TWO ARE STILL ONLY HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, YOU KNOW.
JUST DON'T BE TOO LATE, OKAY?
I KNOW THAT!
YOU MIGHT AT LEAST BE ABLE TO GET A KISS IN.
IF ALL GOES WELL...

GLANCE
ちら
AK-
KISS...
YEAH!!
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP
IF I
COULD
JUST...
WHAT?
HUH?
WHAT!?
N-NOTHING...
I WAS JUST
WONDERING
WHERE YOU
WERE PLAN-
NING ON
TAKING ME
TODAY.
...

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
ISN'T IT THE BOYFRIEND'S JOB TO DECIDE?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO COME ALONG!?
WAIT A SEC!
HUH? BUT, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOKOHAMA SO...
I JUST ASKED YOU TO COME TO MY FAMILY'S HOUSE.
FWIP
WELL, YOU COULD HAVE DONE A LITTLE RESEARCH. YOU KNEW WE WERE GOING THERE!!
STAY CALM... STAY CALM!!
GRR...

ARE YOU JUST GONNA EAT ALL DAY?
CLACK
WELL... WHAT ABOUT CHINA-TOWN?
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.
CLACK
HOW ABOUT THE... RAMEN MUSEUM?
I'M SICK OF THAT PLACE.
CLACK
WHAT ABOUT THAT PARK BY THE HARBOR?
TOOT
YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IT WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE.
CLACK
OKAY...
!!
GRRR
おお
WHAT A BITCH!!

ASAHINA

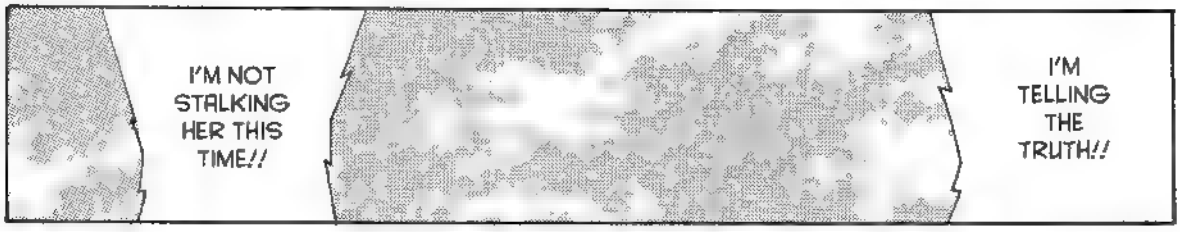
AH...

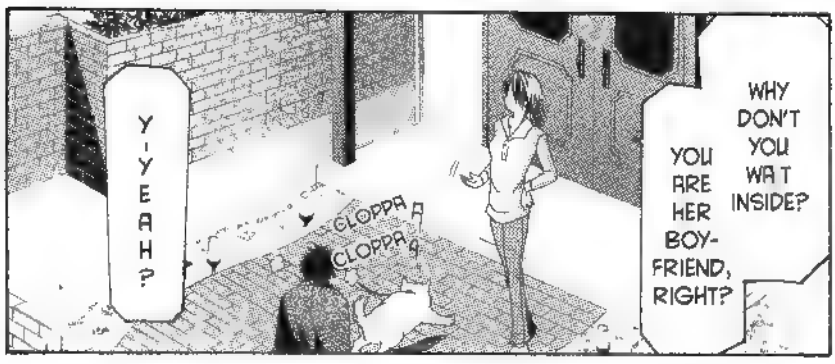
WHOA!!
I'M ALWAYS SHOCKED WHEN I SEE HOW HUGE HER HOUSE IS...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M SOME POOR PEASANT OR SOMETHING.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO STAND AROUND LIKE THIS.
FLIP
FLIP
I'VE GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHERE WE'RE GOING!!

AH...! SORRY, I'M STILL...
ガチャ
CLICK
HUH?
I-IT'S ASAHINA'S BIG SISTER...
WELL, WELL, WELL...
YOU STALKING HER AGAIN?
GRRRWWRR
WHAT!?
N-NO...I'M NOT...

WAAA!! NOT AGAIN!!
GRRRRUFFFF
SIC, MUKU!!
ポイッ
PWIP


I'M NOT STALKING HER THIS TIME!!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!

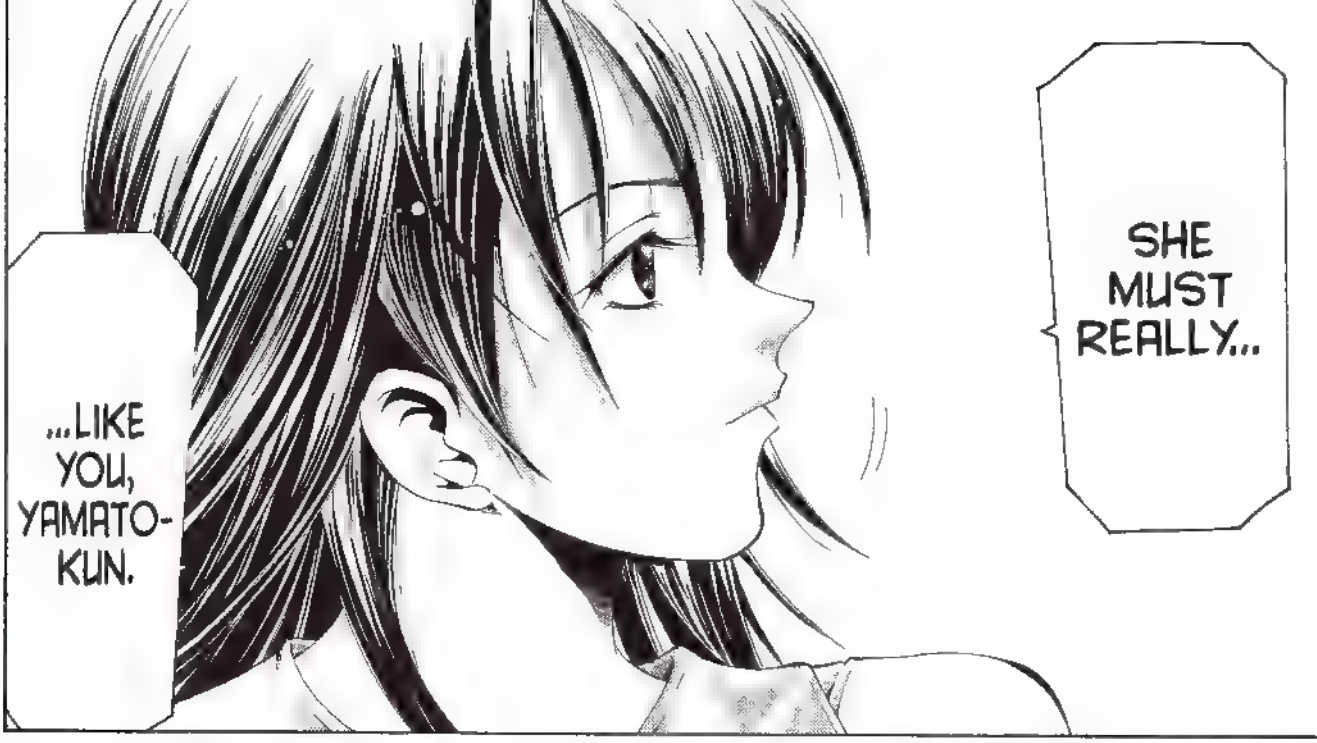

Y-YEAH?
CLOPPA CLOPPA
YOU ARE HER BOY-FRIEND, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU WA T INSIDE?

I'M JUST KID-DING.... KNOW YOU TWO ARE GOING OUT.
CHOMP CHOMP
WELL THEN GET HIM OFF ME...

IF HE FINDS OUT YOUR SUZUKA'S BOY-FRIEND HE'LL KILL YOU.
WHAT!?

AH...BUT MY DAD'S HOME, SO MAYBE YOU'D BETTER NOT.

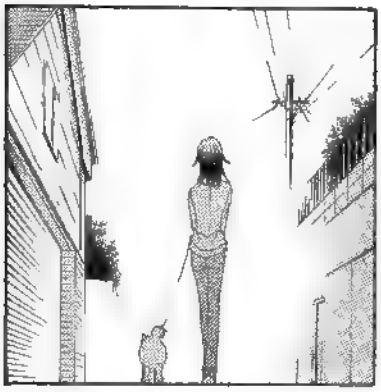
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WONT QUITE"?
HE WON'T QUITE KILL YOU...
RELAX. I'M KIDDING AGAIN.
ME?
...TO TALK ABOUT YOU.
SHE'S BEEN CALLING ME A LOT LATELY...
I'M SORRY...
BASICALLY SHE CALLS ME TO BITCH ABOUT YOU.
SHE SAYS THAT YOU'RE A SPACE CASE, YOU NEVER CHECK YOUR TEXT MESSAGES AND SHE CAN'T COUNT ON YOU FOR ANYTHING...
EVEN WHEN SHE'S COMPLAINING, SHE SOUNDS REALLY HAPPY.
BUT...
NICE JOB, BY THE WAY...
YOU REALLY GOT SUZUKA TO FALL FOR YOU.
UH... UM...

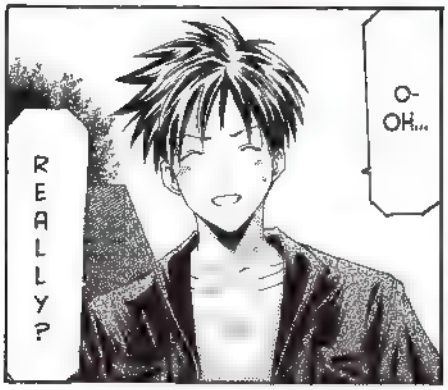

SHE MUST REALLY...
...LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT...?
.....

SHE PROBABLY ACTS SELFISH AND MOODY AND HARD TO GET ALONG WITH...
BUT THAT'S JUST HER WAY OF SHOWING THAT SHE LIKES YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
GRIN

HA, HA. KIDDING AGAIN!
WELL, KIDDING ASIDE... I HOPE THAT'S TRUE...



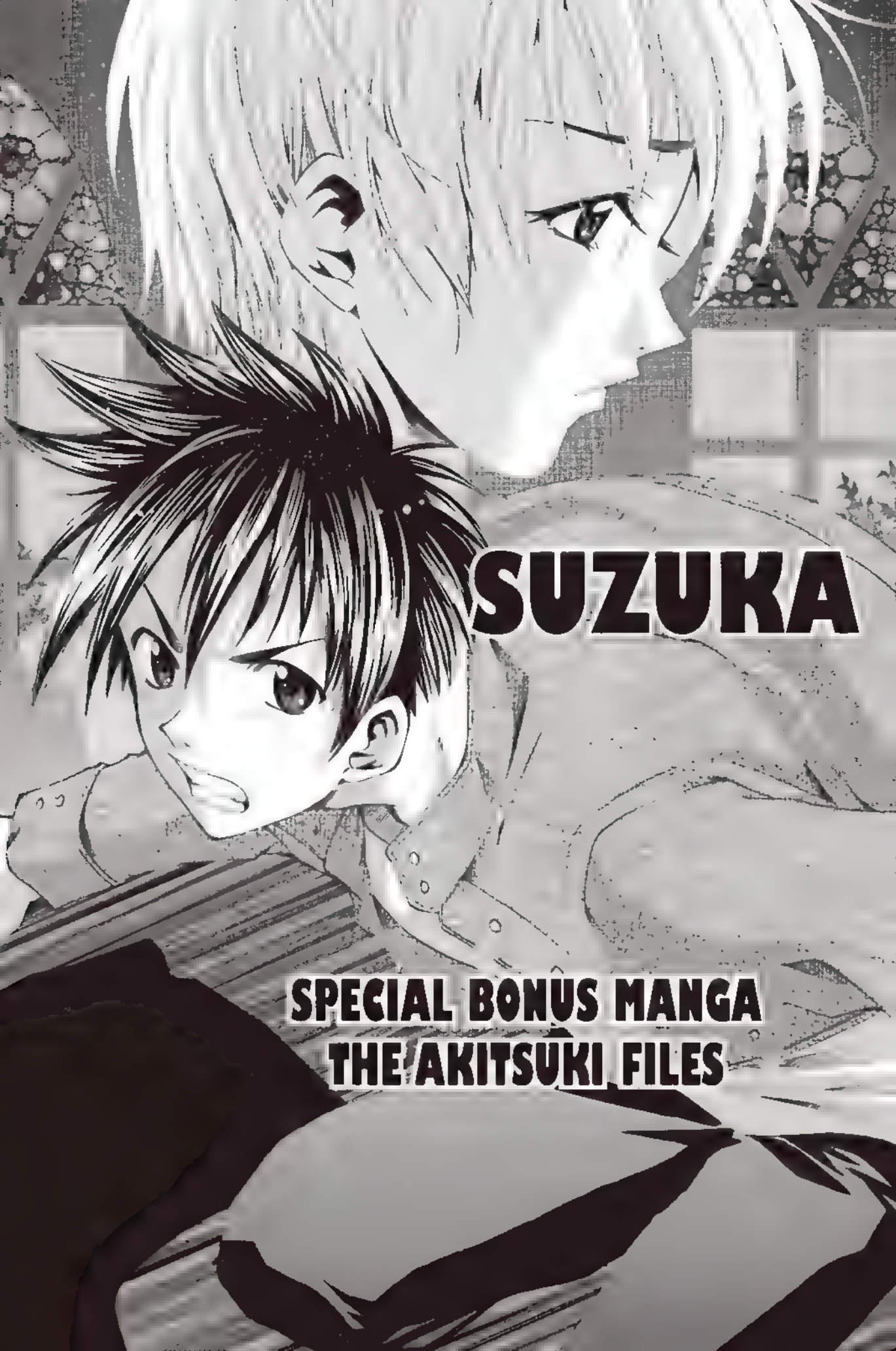

O-OH...
REALLY?

AH...IT'S OKAY. I WAS JUST TALKING TO YOUR SISTER.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING SO LONG. IT TOOK ME LONGER THAN I THOUGHT...
SORRY!!
カシャ
CLICK
YOU SAW MY SISTER?
OH...
HE'S SUCH A GOOD BOY, AND HE'S REALLY FRIENDLY, TOO.
ISN'T MUKU CUTE?
UH... YEAH...
N-NOTHING, REALLY...WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOUR DOG AND STUFF.
D-DID SHE SAY ANYTHING?
UH...
SO, DID YOU DECIDE ON WHERE TO GO?
WHAT? YOU STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED YET!?
YOKOHAMA WALKER 11
AH...!! SHIT...I STILL HAVEN'T...

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME!!
GOD, I TOLD YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT!
BUT THAT'S JUST HER WAY OF SHOWING THAT SHE LIKES YOU...
SHE PROBABLY ACTS SELFISH AND MOODY AND DIFFICULT TO GET ALONG WITH...
.....
UH... NOTHING...
W-WHAT'RE YOU GRINNING ABOUT? YOU'RE CREEPIN' ME OUT?

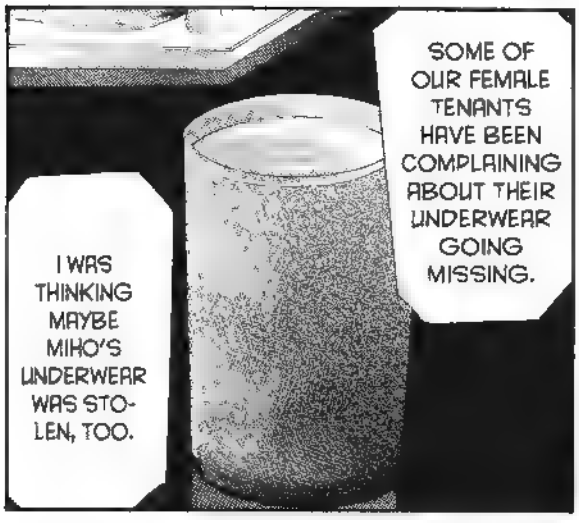
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 10

HEY, MOM. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BRA!?
MY BLUE ONE!!
NO.
OH, NO... I WASHED IT JUST SO I COULD WEAR IT TODAY.
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS? I'M TRYING TO HAVE A RELAXING SUNDAY...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BRA-LESS? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU REALY NEED A BRA OR ANYTHING...?
SMACK
YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
STOMP-
STOMP
LATELY, MIHO-CHAN IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE ASAHINA...
JUST WEAR A DIFFERENT BRA TODAY, MIHO.
SUZUKA

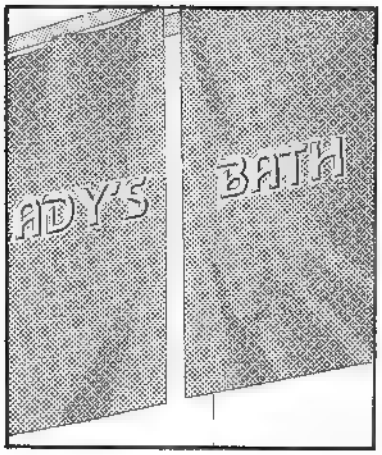

SUZUKA
SPECIAL BONUS MANGA
THE AKITSUKI FILES

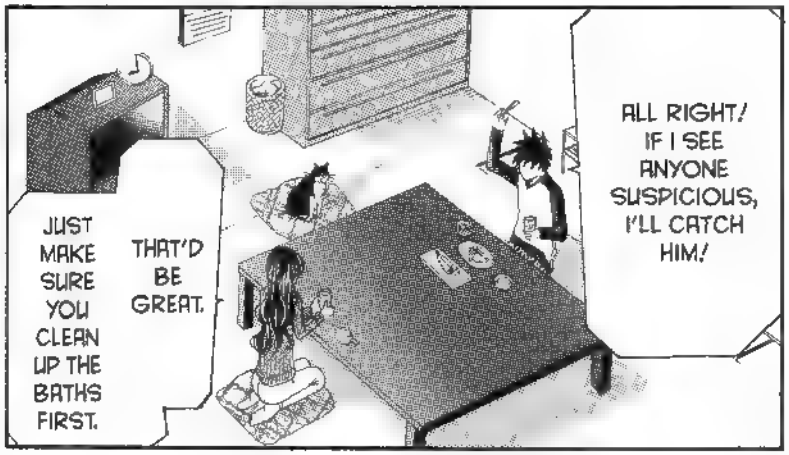
WHAT?
NO...
WHY?

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...
HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE SUSPICIOUS HANGING AROUND OUR APARTMENT COMPLEX LATELY?
PLAZA


SOME OF OUR FEMALE TENANTS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR UNDERWEAR GOING MISSING.
I WAS THINKING MAYBE MIHO'S UNDERWEAR WAS STO-LEN, TOO.

A PANTY THIEF, HUH...
SLURP
HMMM...

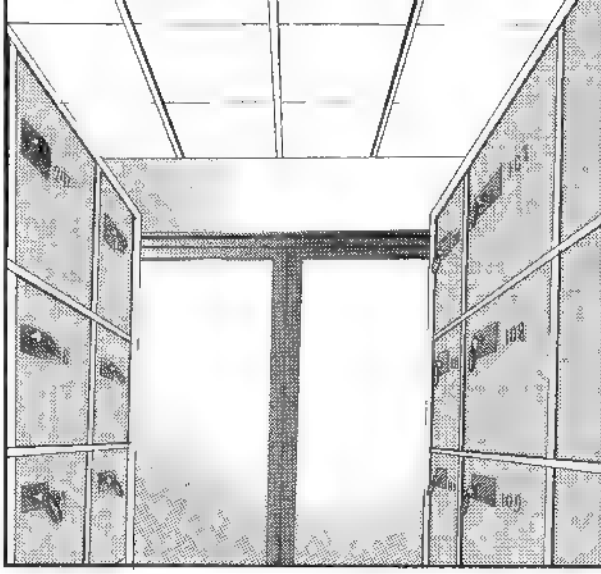

BATH
ADY'S


ALL RIGHT! IF I SEE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS, I'LL CATCH HIM!
THAT'D BE GREAT.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN UP THE BATHS FIRST.

LADY'S BATH
ALL RIGHT, TIME TO GO TO WORK.
NO!!
STOMP
STOMP
W-WHAT THE-?
STOP IT, SAOTOME-SAN!!
SHUT UP! I'M DOING THIS FOR THE GREATER GOOD!
STOP IT!!
SHUT UP AND TAKE OFF YOUR PANTIES!!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE...?
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
DON'T TELL ME YUUKA-SAN'S THE PANTY THIEF...
FLAPPA
S-SOME-THING JUST FLEW OVER HERE...

...!!
STRETCH
びょーん
HMMPH... SO IT WAS YOU.
YOU FELL FOR THE PANTIES I PUT OUT AS BAIT!
AAAHHH!!
SLIDE
SHOCK
WAH!!
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
ADMIT IT! YOU'RE THE PANTY THIEF!!
SCHWIPPA
I AM NOT!
THWUMP
WHAT!?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT!! YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT YOU'RE STILL OUT STEALING PANTIES!!

ALL RIGHT... I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T DO IT...?



... I THIN'T THU IT....
I THWEAR...

EVEN ASAHINA WOULDN'T TAKE THINGS THIS FAR...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOUR FACE IS ALL SWOLLEN...
YOUR NOSE S BLEED-ING, TOO.

GUESS I STILL HAVEN'T TORTURED YOU ENOUGH.
IT'S TIME TO BRING OUT THE WHIP!
NOOOO!!
OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH, SAOTOME-SAN!!

I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW!
FWICK
IF IT WASN'T YOU, THEN WHO STOLE MY PANTIES!?
THEY WERE REALLY EXPEN-SIVE!!

...TCH.
IS THAT YOUR ATT-TUDE? YOU KNOW...
WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND THE REAL PERP?
THEN I'LL BE-LIEVE YOU.
HOW THE HELL AM I S'POSED TO DO THAT...
SUZUKA-CHAN SAID SOMEONE STOLE HER PANTIES FROM THE LAUNDROMAT.
SHOCK
WHAT?
A-ASA-HINA'S WERE STOLEN, TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHO KNOWS, THE THIEF IS PROBABLY HAVING A BIG "PANTY PARTY" RIGHT NOW!
JUST THINK OF ALL THE NAUGHTY STUFF HE COULD BE DOING...
...W-WITH ASA-HINA'S UNDER-WEAR...
NAUGHTY STUFF...!?

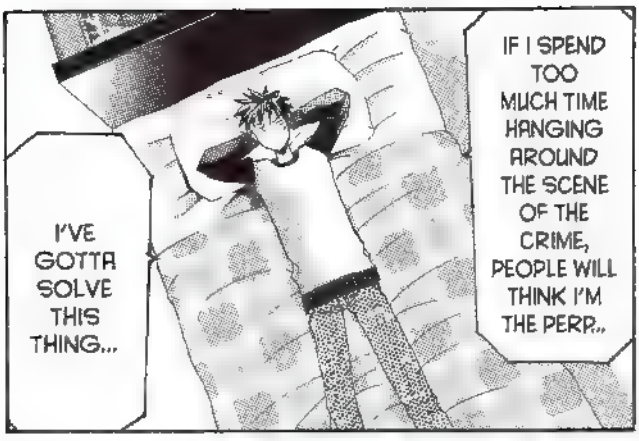
HE'S SO EASY TO MANIPU-LATE...
AH... YAMATO-KUN.
FWOOSH
.....

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
SUZUKA-CHAN'S PANTIES WERE STOLEN, TOO?

GLANCE
DEFINITELY A PRIME LOCATION FOR A PANTY THIEF..
...IT'S A QUIET SPOT, NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND.
THIS IS THE SCENE OF THE CRIME..

I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYONE GET AWAY WITH STEALING ASAHINA'S PANTIES.
YUUKA-SAN CAN FEND FOR HERSELF BUT..

I'LL CATCH HIM!!
IN THE NAME OF MY GRANDPA.
YAMATO-KUN.
WAH!!
ASAHINA!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
WHY'S YOUR COLLAR UP?
TH-THAT WAS FAST!!
DID YOU FINISH YOUR SHOPPING ALREADY!?
Y-YEAH...
OH... I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU... THE OTHER DAY MY...
IT'S OKAY!!
DON'T WORRY!! I'VE GOT EVERY-THING UNDER CON-TROL!!
STEP
OKAY!?
UH=!?
.....?



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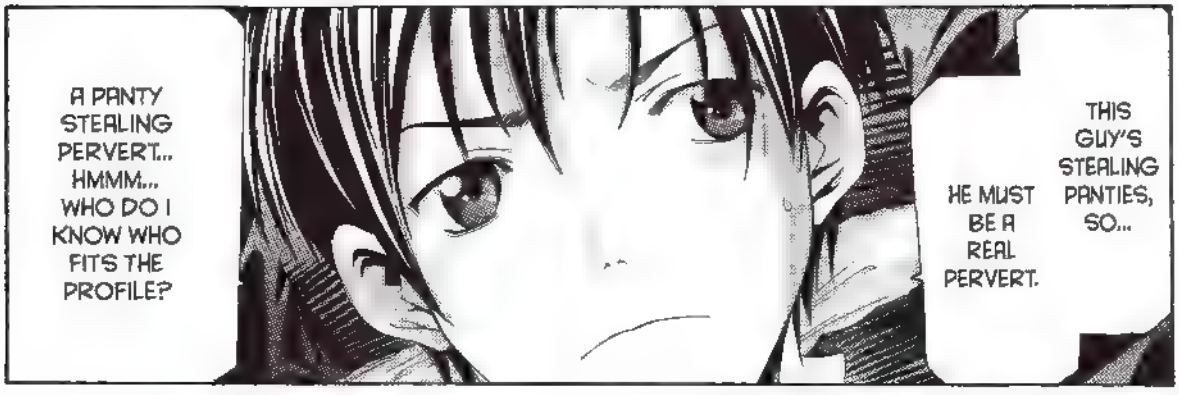
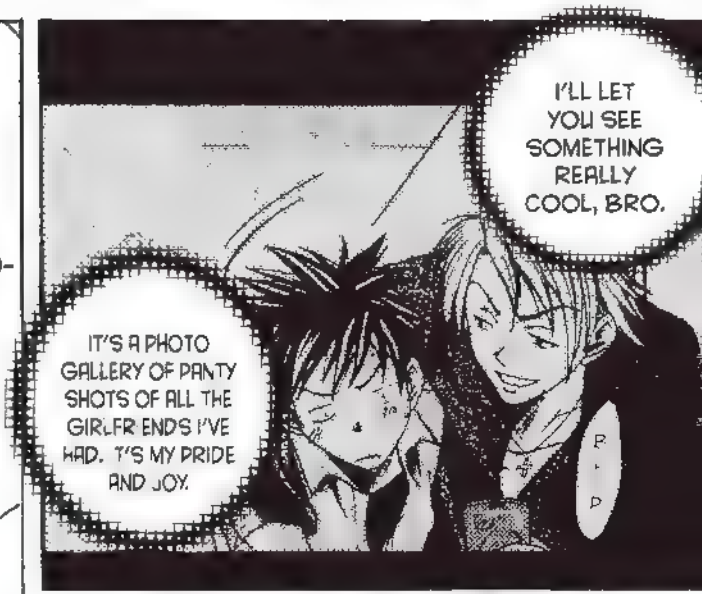
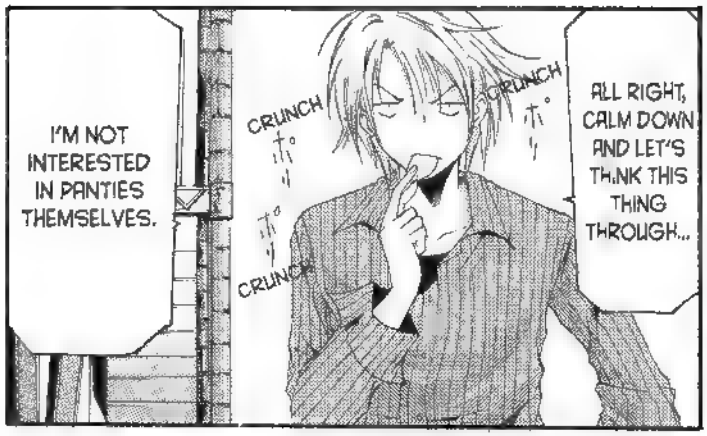
YAMATO AKITSUKI




I'LL LET YOU SEE SOMETHING REALLY COOL, BRO.
IT'S A PHOTO GALLERY OF PANTY SHOTS OF ALL THE GIRLFRIENDS I'VE HAD. IT'S MY PRIDE AND JOY.
P-P

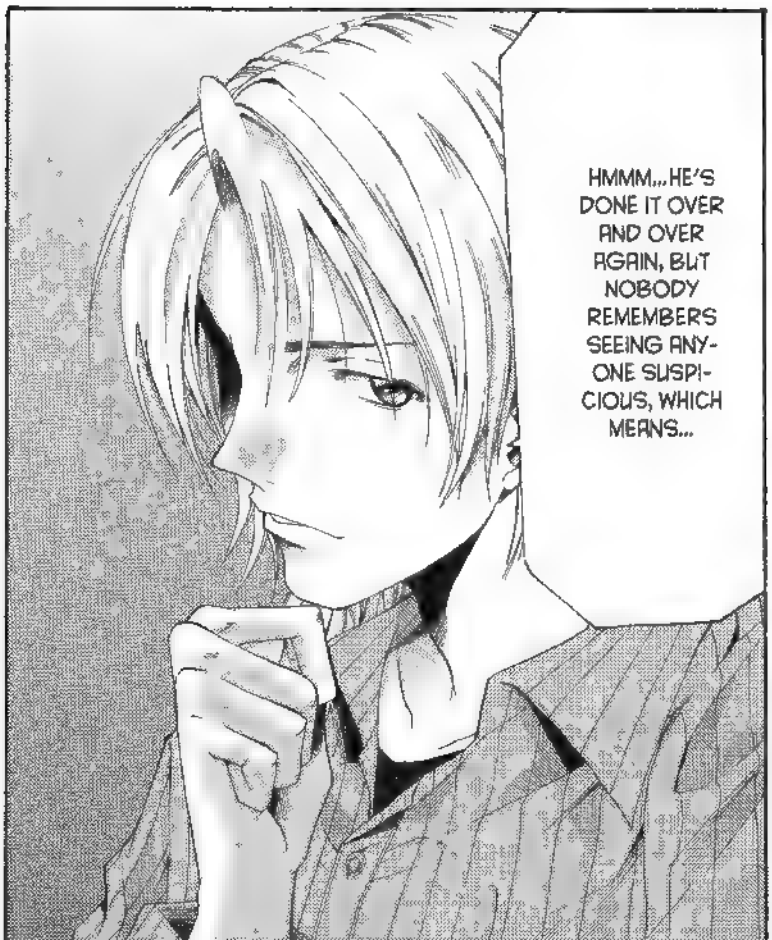
* FROM *SUZUKA*, VOLUME 1 PAGE 121.

HEY, YASU-NOBU...
HEH...
THANKS FOR SAVING ME THE TROUBLE OF HAV-NG TO HUNT YOU DOWN.
I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY... THE PERP ALWAYS RETURNS TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
CLOP
CLOP
WHAT...?
IT'S OVER, PAL. DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME...
GRIN
HOPE YOU LIKE BREAD AND WATER!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALK-NG ABOUT?
QUIT YOUR STUP D RAM-BLING...
I'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT!! NOW HAND OVER ASAHINA'S PANTIES, YOU PERVERT!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
.....

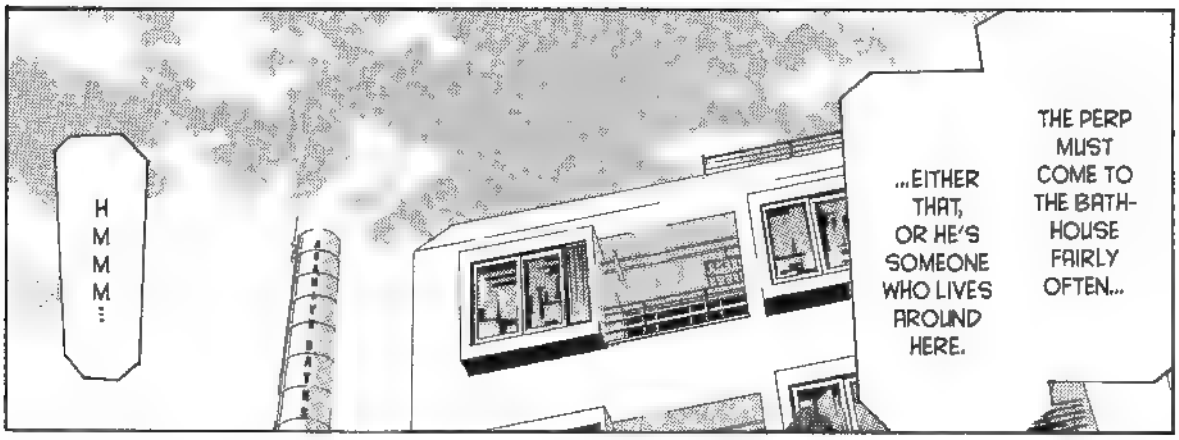

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PANTIES THEMSELVES.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN AND LET'S THINK THIS THING THROUGH...

FLIP
LIGHTLY SALTED
POTATO CHIPS
FLIP

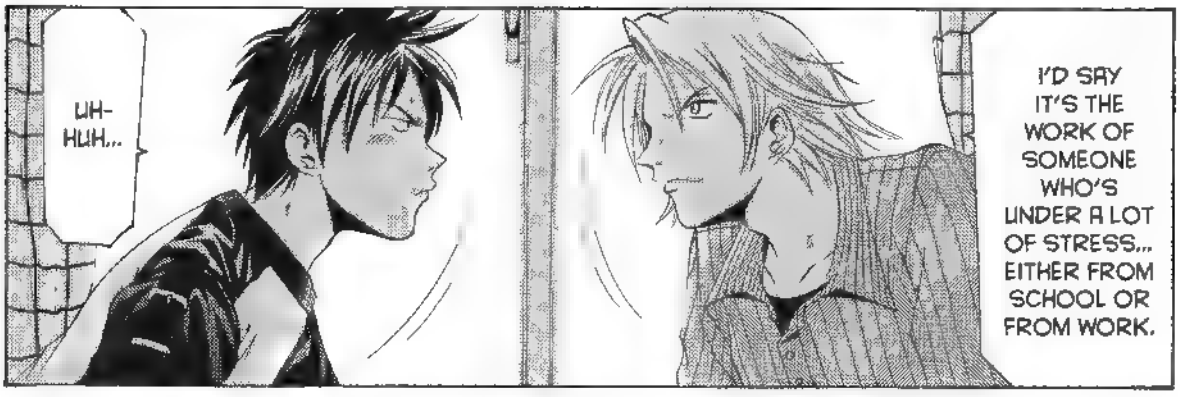
GOD HE PISSES ME OFF.
OH YEAH!
BESIDES, I CAN SEE ALL THE PANTIES I WANT. I DON'T HAVE TO STEAL THEM.
I'M ONLY INTER-ESTED IN THE GIRLS WHO WEAR THEM!!


HMMM... HE'S DONE IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BUT NOBODY REMEMBERS SEEING ANY-ONE SUSPI-CIOUS, WHICH MEANS...

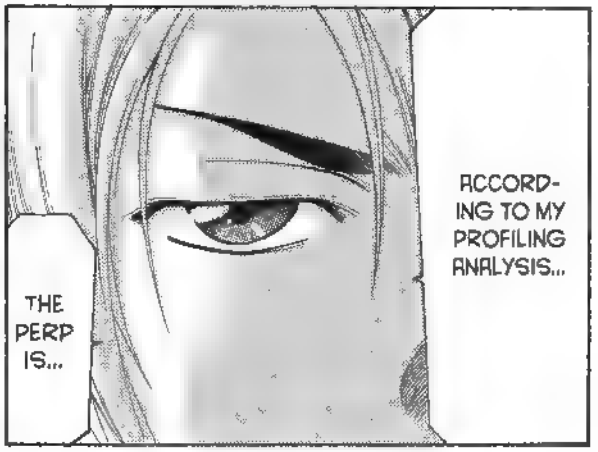
YOU'RE JUST GOING WITH THE MOST OBVIOUS CONCLU-SION. YOU'RE A SHITTY DETECTIVE, YAMATO.
W-WELL THEN WHO DID IT?


HMMM...
...EITHER THAT, OR HE'S SOMEONE WHO LIVES AROUND HERE.
THE PERP MUST COME TO THE BATH-HOUSE FAIRLY OFTEN...

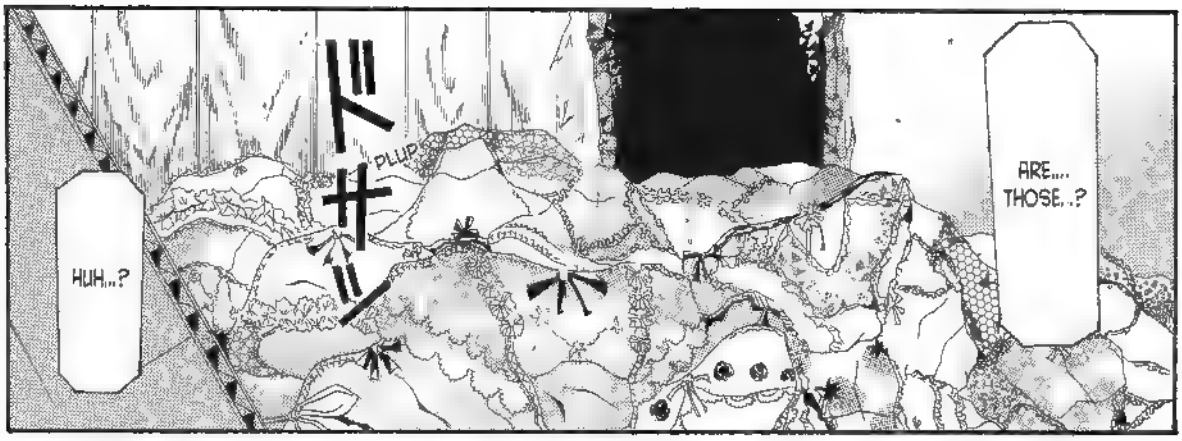
...THEY'RE OFTEN THE QUIET LONER TYPE.
A LOT OF TIMES PEOPLE EXPECT THESE GUYS TO LOOK LIKE TOTAL PERVERTS, BUT...


UH-HUH...
I'D SAY IT'S THE WORK OF SOMEONE WHO'S UNDER A LOT OF STRESS... EITHER FROM SCHOOL OR FROM WORK.

YEAH...?


THE PERP IS...
ACCORD-ING TO MY PROFILING ANALYSIS...

FWUPPA
YOU, YOU DIRTY SON OF A BITCH!!
WHAT?
SHUT UP!! I'M NOT A QUIET LONER!
THUMPA
THUMPA
CONFESS! YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THE TRUTH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
O-OUCH!!
BOOM
UWAH!!
HUH...? WHAT?
.....


ARE.... THOSE..?
PLUP
HUH...?

IT WASN'T ME!!
FWUP
N-NO!

WAH!? W-WHAT THE HELL!!?
OH MY GOD... IT REALLY IS YOU...
YOU NEED HELP, MAN.

BUWA!!
FLUP
WAAHHH!! STAY AWAY FROM ME, PERVERT!!

CLICK
I'VE BEEN HEARING THIS WEIRD SCRATCH-ING NOISE IN MY ROOM LATELY...
HEY, YAMATO-KUN.

AH...

OH MY G—
.....

WHAT HAPPENED, SUZUKA-CHAN!!? WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU!?
W-WHAT S IT!?

KYAAAAA!!
WHAAAA!! WAIT, WAIT!!

IT WASN'T ME! SOME-BODY STUCK THESE BY THE HOLE IN THE WALL..
HELP!!
HE'L KILL ME FOR EXPOS-NG HIS SECRET!
SHUDDER
Y-YAMATO-KUN WAS... LOOK...

SHUT UP!!
SLAP
OOOF!
AH! THOSE ARE MY PANT-IES!!
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE THE THIEF!
GRRP
NO, I'M NOT!! WAIT!! THE PERP MUST HAVE...
OH MY GOD, MOM!!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO...
I NEVER THOUGHT YAMATO-KUN WAS THAT KIND OF...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!
SLAP
SLAP
TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE...
HUH...?
PLOINK...
した？...

GLARE

PANTIES...
.....

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS CASE ISN'T OVER! THAT WAS ASSAULT! YOU'RE ALL WITNESSES!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
B-BYE, YAMATO-KUN.
MAKE SURE YOU GIVE THEM ALL BACK, OKAY?
A-ALL RIGHT, WE FOUND THE THIEF. EVEYBODY, BACK TO YOUR ROOMS...
ASAHIYA BATHS
MEOWW
AWWW, YOU ONLY SNATCH THE SILK PANTIES, HUH? WE'VE GOT THE SAME TASTE, KITTY.

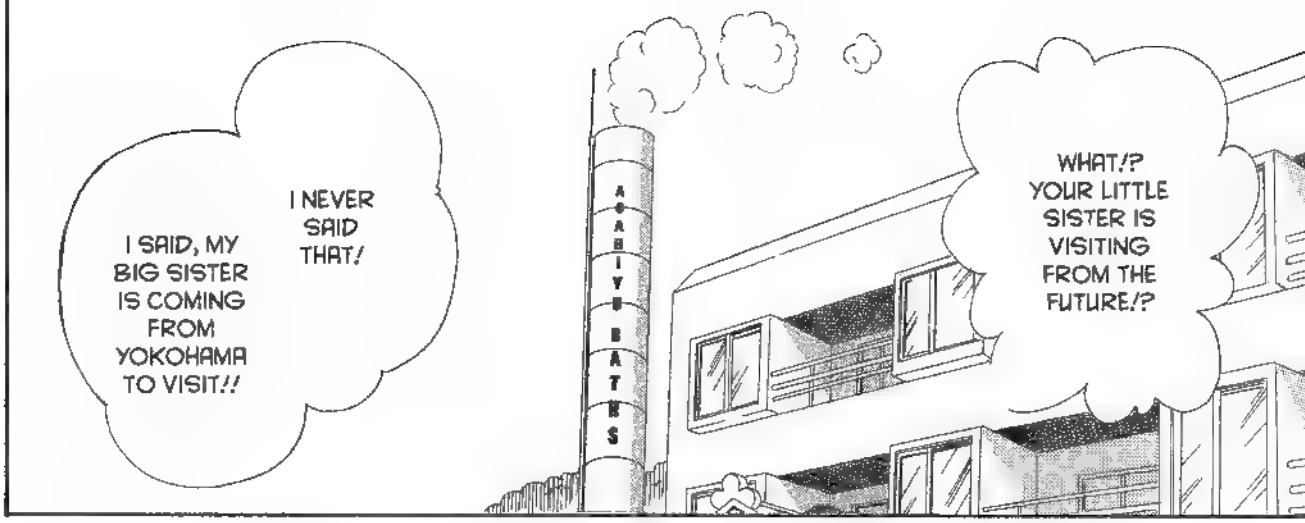
The End

SUZUKA-MON

KABUTO COMICS

#3 SERGEANT SCISSOR-HANDS!!

KOJI G. SEO


I NEVER SAID THAT!
I SAID, MY BIG SISTER IS COMING FROM YOKOHAMA TO VISIT!!
ASAHI BATTS
WHAT!? YOUR LITTLE SISTER IS VISITING FROM THE FUTURE!?

YEAH...
HUH? "FILL IN FOR YOU"? SO, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOING BACK HOME, SUZUKA-MON?

SO SHE'S GONNA FILL IN FOR ME AND GIVE YOU SOME TRAINING.
SHE SAID THE REASON YOU'RE STILL SUCH A WUSS IS THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN FIRM ENOUGH WITH YOU.

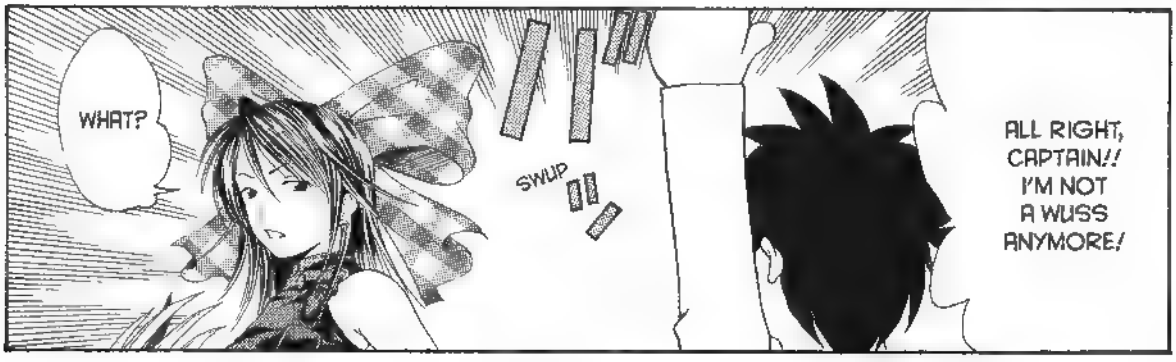
BOOM
BOOM
WELL, OKAY THEN...
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
UH...

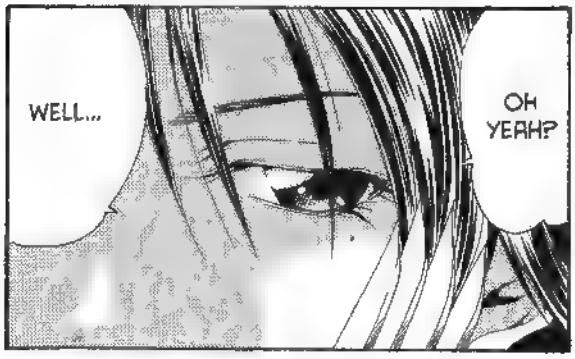
I'M SUZUNE-CHAN, SUZUKA-MON'S SISTER.
GRIN
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, YAMATO-KUN.
SUZUNE-CHAN!!
WAHHH!! WHAT THE—!?
HYAA!!
FWISH
UH...YOU LOOK MORE LIKE A SUZUNE-SAN THAN A SUZUNE-CHAN...
AH...I THINK I'LL STICK AROUND A LITTLE LONGER, SUZUNE-CHAN...
ALL RIGHT, ON YOUR FEET! WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE ON ANY BATTLE-FIELD!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH...UNLESS YOU WANT TO FEEL THE WRATH OF MY "NANTO SUICHOKU KEN" KARATE ATTACK!
FALLUMP
I-I'M SORRY, SUZUNE-CHAN...
SHUDDER
SHUT UP!!

OKAY.

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO NEGOTIATE.
DO NOT ANNOY ME!
CLINK
CLINK

I WAS BETTER OFF WITH SUZUKA-MON!!
WAHHH. THIS IS SERIOUS. IT'S LIKE I'M IN BOOT CAMP.


WHAT?
SWUP
ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN!! I'M NOT A WUSS ANYMORE!


WELL...
OH YEAH?

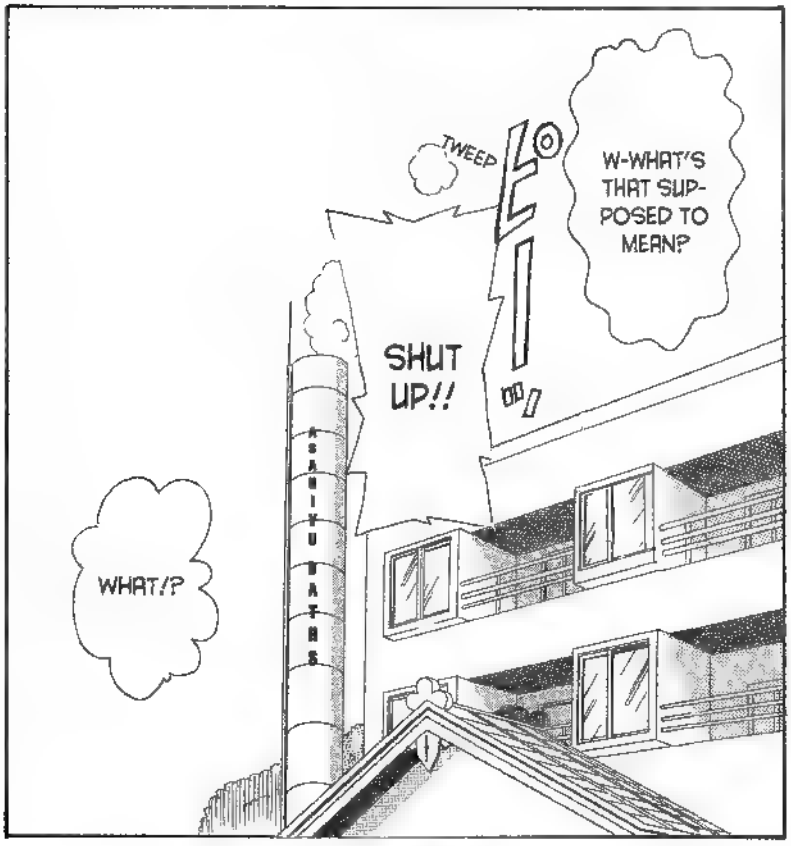
THANKS TO SUZUKA-MON, I'VE BECOME MUCH STRON-GER!!
SO, DON'T WORRY. I'M FINE NOW!!

WHAT!?
STEP
PROVE IT THEN! LET'S SEE YOU FIGHT MUKU!

OH MY GOD... MUKU...HE LOOKS LIKE A REAL TOSA FIGHTING DOG.
HE'S NOTHING LIKE THE CUTE DOGS YOU SEE IN MANGA AND ANIME...
GRRWWWR
WAHHH!! I'M DEAD!
GROOOWRRR!!
SICK HIM, MUKU!
POOR SEO-SENSEI DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE TIME TO GO PARA-GLIDING! PLEASE SEND IN SOME LETTERS TO CHEER HIM UP.
TA-DAH
HERMES DOG WHISTLE (24K GOLD)!!
FWICK
Y-YAMATO-KUN!!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
THWACK
WHACK
IT'S NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING TO HELP TOUGHEN UP YAMATO-KUN...
I BOUGHT YOU THAT DOG WHISTLE AT TAKASHIMAYA WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...
!
SURE, BLOWING THAT WHISTLE WILL STOP MUKU BUT...
.....
HELP ME, SUZUKA-MON!!
.....
I-I'M NOT GOING HOME!!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT!?
MUKU!! STOP!!
TWEEEEP
BLINK
.....

THIS WAS JUST A TEST. IF YOU WERE GONNA LEAVE YAMATO-KUN ALONE W TH ME THEN I WOULD HAVE LET YOU GO BACK TO YO-KOHAMA....
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ACTUALLY MATURED A LITTLE, SO...



NOW SUZUKA-MON IS EVEN MORE POWERFUL!!

WILL YAMATO'S SUFFEREING CONTINUE!?

(YEP.. PROBABLY)

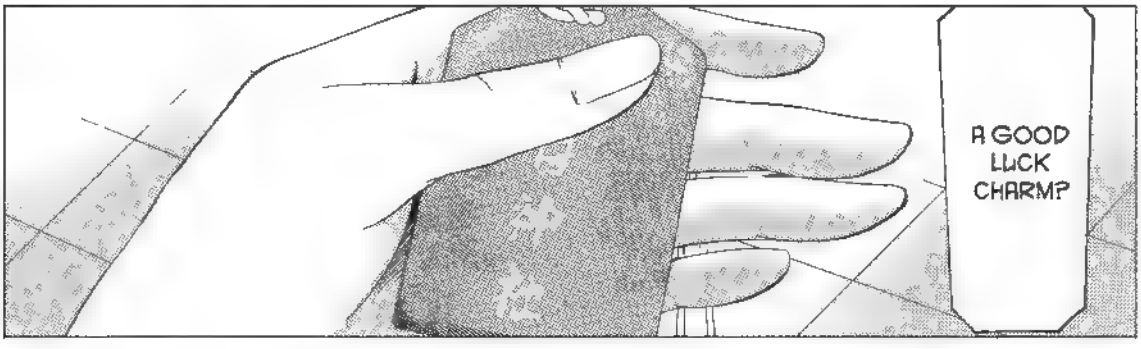
END OF CHAPTER 3

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Kanto championship, page 95

Kanto is the most populous region of Japan and includes Tokyo, Yokohoma, and the outlying suburbs.



Omamori, page 105

Yamato is giving Suzuka an *Omamori*. *Omamori* are talismans that are used to ward off evil or bring good luck. They are sold at shrines and temples. Some popular *Omamori* charms are "traffic safety," "good health," and, of course, "safe childbirth."

Asakusa, page 105

Asakusa is a district of Tokyo that is known for its famous shrine, the Asakusa-Jinja.

Yakiniku, page 128

Asahina and Yamato are getting ready to eat *yakiniku*. *Yakiniku* is a Japanese version of Korean-style barbecue beef.

First name, last name, page 132

Japanese people generally refer to each other by their last names. Referring to someone by her first name shows a familiarity and intimacy that is generally reserved for family or close friends and peers.

Chinatown, page 159

Yokohama is one of Japan's most cosmopolitan cities and is famous for its Chinatown.

Ramen exhibition, page 159

Yokohama's "Ramen Museum" is part museum, part theme park, and part food court. Eight of Japan's most famous ramen restaurants serve their noodles here. The theme park is a re-creation of old Tokyo, and the museum has displays of instant ramen, ramen bowls, and old advertisements. Yokohama also boasts a curry museum.

Katsudon, page 177

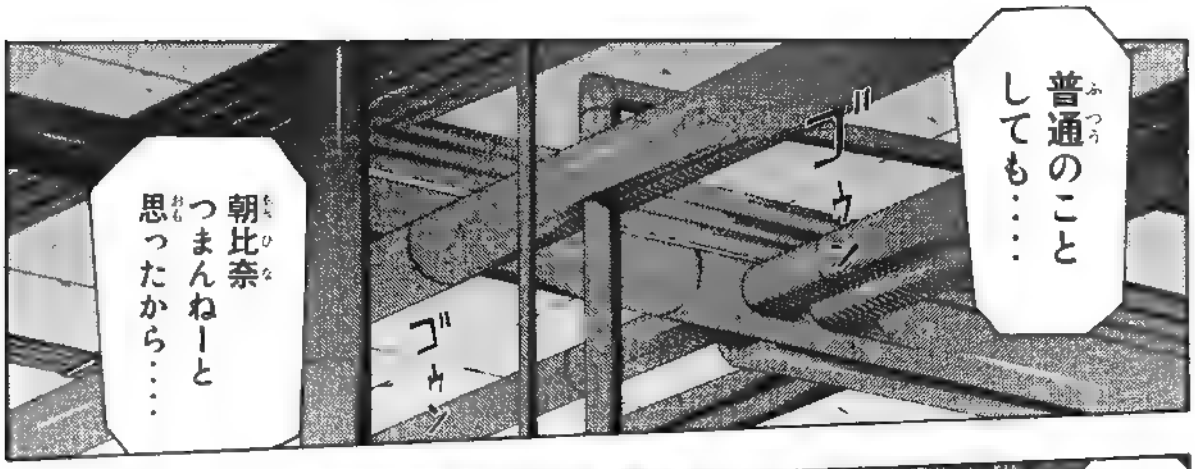
In the original text, instead of "bread and water," Yamato is actually offering Yasunobu a bowl of *katsudon* or pork cutlet over rice. In Japanese cop dramas, the cops always give the suspects a meal while they interrogate them. For some reason, it's almost always *katsudon*.

Tosa dog, page 189

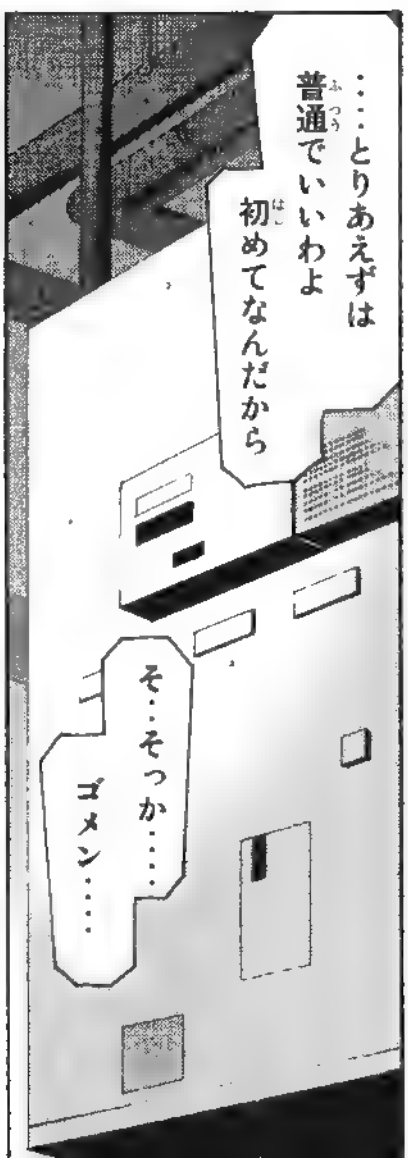
A Tosa is a Japanese species of dog that was bred specifically for dog-fighting.

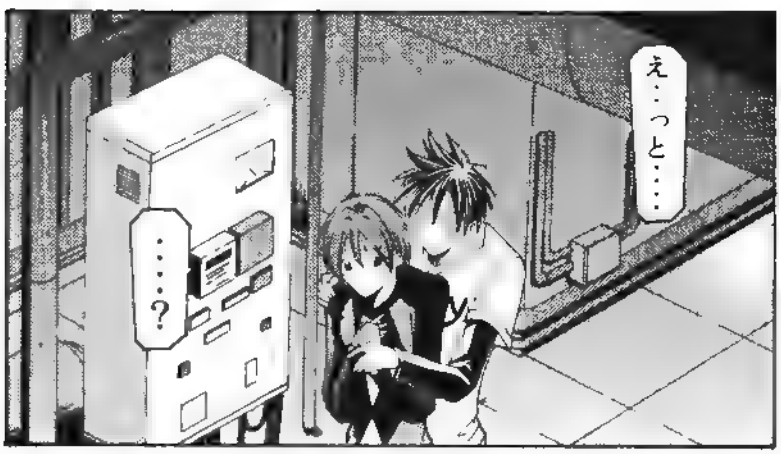
Preview of Volume 10

We're pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* volume 10. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!


普通のことしても・・・・
ゴウン
ゴウン
朝比奈つまんねーと思ったから・・・・

・・・・・・・・・
・・・・もう


・・・とりあえずは普通でいいわよ初めてなんだから
そ・・そっか・・・・ゴメン・・・・

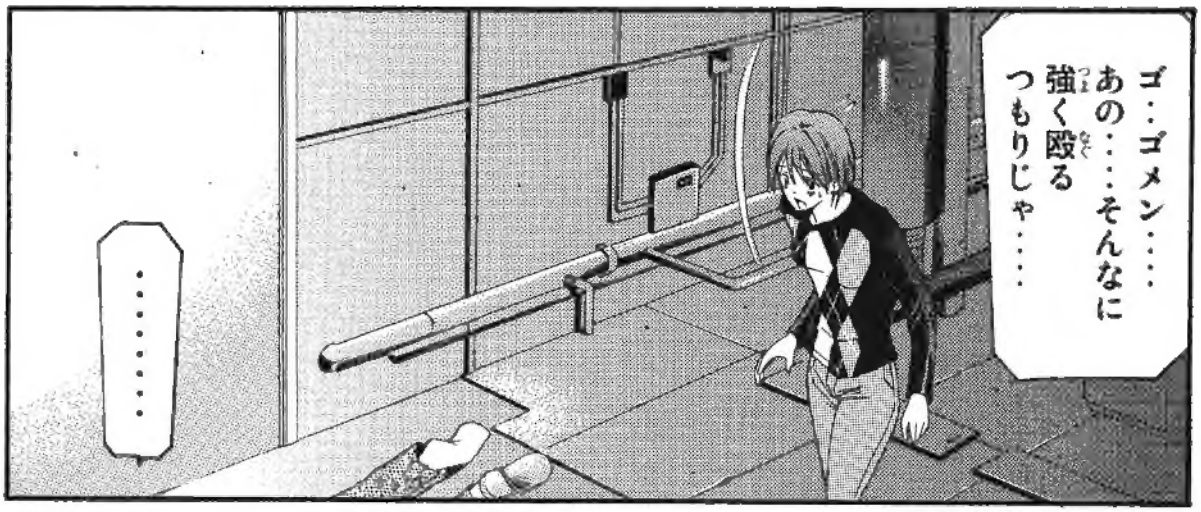

え・・っと・・・・
・・・・?

ねぇ・・・・
もうわかったから放してよ

いや・・あの・・・・
ドキン
ドキン

え……
ちょっと待(ま)って…
大和(やまと)くんてば…
……

イヤっ!!
ブッ!!
……あ!


ゴ・ゴメン・・・・
あの・・・そんなに
強く殴る
つもりじゃ・・・・
・・・・・・・・

そんっっなに
イヤか・・・・
グーで殴るほど
イヤか・・・・

ち・違うの！
イヤって言うのは
そーゆーイヤじゃ
なくて・・・・

いいよもう・・・・
余計空しくなる
から・・・・
だから
違うの!!

・・・・・・・・
大和くんが
イヤなんじゃなくて
・・・・その・・・・

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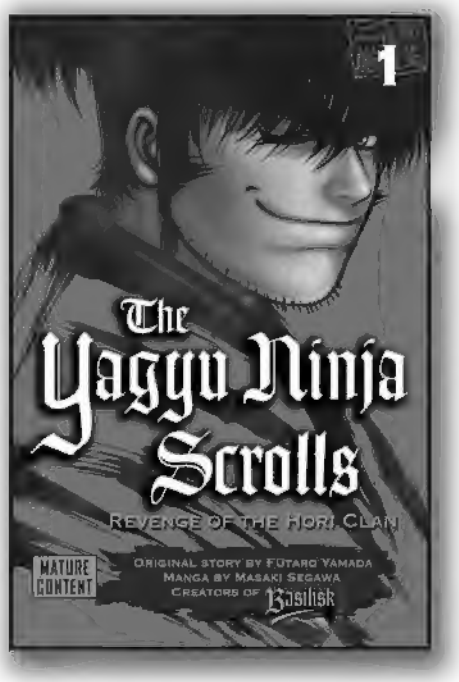

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